

Its Profile

V&A served as a role model for many American museums, including those of Baltimore, Boston, and Brooklyn, New York. "The idea was to use the museum as an educational instrument, to teach art and design, to be useful, to do something for the public," Borg said.

In truth, in creating the Museum of Manufactures in 1852, just after the Great Exhibition of 1851, the government saw it principally as a way of raising the standards of British design in the context of the Industrial Revolution.

Its educational role was added by its founding director, Henry Cole, who saw the museum being "elevated from being a mere unimpressive lounge for idlers and an impulsive schoolroom for everyone." He named the South Kensington Museum it opened on its present site on the corner of Exhibition Road and Cromwell Road in 1857.

But by May 1890, when Queen Victoria gave the museum its present name in memory of her consort, the V&A had lost its popular touch. Even now, while the V&A has many fervent admirers, a good many Londoners stay away, believing erroneously that it is a museum of Victorian art.

In looking to the future, Borg has therefore sought inspiration in the museum's earliest years. "I think the museum should be trying to lead taste, to show people what is good, design from the past and the present," he said. "We should take some risks we can even say, 'This will be the next big thing.'"

He clearly has plenty on his plate, with managing the museum's 800 member staff and an annual budget of about £40 million (£65 million), promoting its new contemporary image and finding the money for the £20 million renovation of the British Galleries. As a result, many London art experts believe that the Spiral is too ambitious.

Borg, though, is unfazed. He said that the success of the new Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, had shown what modern architecture can do for a city. He also noted that according to polls commissioned by the V&A, public attitudes toward the Spiral in London had gone from largely hostile to slightly favorable.

"Just as changing opinion resulted in planning permission, we're not surprised that opinion will also swing the other way," Borg said. "The next 12 months are important because we have to continue what we have started."



See JAPAN, Page 4.

Herald Tribune



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Rising Joblessness Tears at Japan's Social Cohesion

By Stephanie Strom
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Last June, Takaharu Akimoto's boss politely and apologetically asked him to quit his job as a production manager at Shoshiba Manufacturing Co., a midsize engine-parts manufacturer affiliated with the beleaguered Nissan Motor Co.

"I said to myself, 'Impossible!'" Mr. Akimoto recalled. "I told him I didn't want to quit, please let me stay longer."

But in today's Japan, the impossible has become possible, and in December, seven years shy of his retirement, Mr. Akimoto "quit" and joined the 2.91 million other Japanese who are officially looking for a job.

"This is the worst period of my life," he said. "I've had some serious setbacks before, but this is totally different."

Japan has been suffering its highest rate of unemployment since the government started keeping statistics in 1953. Almost twice as many people are looking for jobs as there are job openings, and many of the available positions are in low-paying, unskilled areas.

That strikes a blow to the heart of Japan's self-image, and the whole country is reeling. Although unemployment is low compared with the rate in many other countries, full employment or close to it, is a key clause in the social contract that has kept the public complacent and one political party in power in Japan almost consistently since World War II.

Now, for the first time since the lean years after the country's defeat in the war, most Japanese know someone who is out of a job and fear that they could be next.

In addition to the challenge of finding work, the jobless are battling shame and despair. Mr. Akimoto, for example, kept his quitting a secret from his wife for a week.

"I was at a loss as to how we would survive," he said.

The humiliation sometimes flares into anger, an emotion rarely on public display in Japan. An atrite job-seeker waved his fist in the face of a television reporter filming at one branch of the government employment agency known as Hello Work, accusing the reporter of invading



A U.S. F-15 jet preparing for takeoff Wednesday at the Incirlik base in southern Turkey for a patrol over Iraq.

U.S. Widening Its Targets in Iraq

By Steven Lee Myers
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The almost daily U.S. air strikes against Iraq have turned into the equivalent of a low-intensity war, hitting a wide range of military sites. While the Pentagon seeks to justify the attacks by calling them defensive, some of the targets pose little immediate threat to U.S. or British pilots flying patrol over much of Iraq.

Operating under rules that allow pilots — if attacked or threatened — to strike at any targets, U.S. fighter jets have pounded more than a dozen sites in north and south Iraq in the last four days.

On Tuesday, for the first time, the targets included a newly completed missile site that could threaten ships in the Gulf, Pentagon officials said.

And in the last month, U.S. planes, recently joined by British jets, have attacked more anti-aircraft batteries and surface-to-air missile batteries than they did during the four nights of intense raids in December.

Including the Tuesday raids, the Americans and British have struck more than 40 targets.

The raids in December were meant to set back Iraq's ability to make chemical and biological weapons in the wake of President Saddam Hussein's repeated refusal to cooperate with United Nations weapons inspectors.

The aim of this new war of attrition, officials said, is to put pressure on President Saddam's isolated government and armed forces to keep him on the defensive, even as the United States openly advocates the overthrow of the Iraqi leader.

Officials at the Pentagon say the latest strikes have dealt a blow to Iraq's ability to threaten the American and British patrols. By one intelligence estimate, Iraq has lost about 20 percent of its air-defense weapons since the December raids.

"We're being effective, taking out his air defenses piece by piece," an official said.

But Iraq has remained defiant. On Monday, Baghdad

See IRAQ, Page 4

EU Warns Italy On Deficit Criteria For Single Currency

'Over-Optimistic' 3-Year Budget Plan Should Be Revised, Commission Says

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — The European Commission fired a warning shot across Italy's bow Wednesday, saying Rome's growth forecasts seemed "over-optimistic" and questioning whether it could sustain the economic performance required for membership in the European single currency, the euro.

The European Union's executive agency recommended that the Italian government resubmit its three-year budget plan. Italian officials insisted that the government would be able to keep to the criteria, but the warning revived old fears about Italy's ability to keep its economy in line with other members in the currency union.

Although Italy made heroic efforts in becoming one of the 11 countries adopting the euro, concern was expressed in Germany and elsewhere about its historically high levels of public debt and deficit. Now, the commission has suggested that Italy may have to do more to comply with the euro zone's economic targets.

The commission's assessment followed warnings by the European Central Bank that several member countries are not making enough of an effort to assure that their budgets are balanced or in surplus.

The commission's findings will be debated Monday by finance ministers of the 11 countries forming part of the currency zone, and if its assessment is confirmed, the ministers are likely to instruct Italy to present a revised program, officials said.

At the same time, the commission said Britain and Sweden, which are not members of the economic and monetary union, fully met the single currency requirements. It said Portugal met the requirements but had insufficient margin for maneuver if economic conditions worsened.

Italian officials said Treasury Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi would show new figures to the EU finance ministers next week to prove that Italy's budget and economic forecasts were realistic. In Rome, Mr. Ciampi said the presentation of a three-year economic program in the spring should satisfy the commission's request for a revised Italian medium-term budget proposal.

The commission also warned that because of

See ITALY, Page 5

Second Thoughts About East Timor

Indonesia's Offer of Independence Now Suspect as Violence Flares

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

JAKARTA — Far from pacifying rebellious East Timor, Indonesia's offer of independence is fanning a cycle of violence that could make early sovereignty impossible, diplomats and aid workers said Wednesday.

In fact, some analysts now think that Jakarta's surprise statement last week was intended to whip up controversy and conflict in the former Portuguese colony to strengthen the case for it to remain part of Indonesia.

This suspicion has been increased by the disclosure that the Indonesian military is paying and arming a large militia force in East Timor that critics say is terrorizing the majority of the population there that favors independence.

Indonesia annexed the territory as a province in 1976 in a move that has not been recognized by most governments.

The foreign ministers of Indonesia

and Portugal are to meet in New York on Sunday and Monday for more talks on the future of the territory, which United Nations officials hope will result in an agreement on an autonomy package.

"There's a tremendous potential for violence," a senior Western diplomat said. "The lid is now off. Rival groups in East Timor are struggling for position."

About 30 persons are reported to have been killed in political violence in East Timor in the week since Jakarta first held out the prospect of independence, and critics say the Indonesian government and military could use the rising tension and conflict as a reason for remaining there to keep the peace.

Such a situation clearly strengthens the government's argument that the best option for the territory is not independence — and the risk of civil war — but a large measure of self-government within Indonesia.

Portugal has long supported such an outcome, and Indonesia strongly opposes it.

In an interview in the International Herald Tribune on Wednesday, Foreign

See TIMOR, Page 5



Kanana Gusmao, an imprisoned East Timorese separatist leader, left, greeting Louis Joinet, a UN human rights representative, on Wednesday.

Germany Searches Soul With Debate On Citizenship

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Rarely can the far-right anti-immigration parties of Germany make common cause with mainstream politics.

But the radical right is having a field day, throwing its unsolicited and unwelcome support behind a petition drive by the established center-right parties that is meant to oppose a relaxation of Germany's rigid citizenship laws by the new left-leaning government.

"This campaign is out of control," complained Cem Ozdemir, a Green party member of the Bundestag who is of Turkish origin. "The problem is that it is being used by the far right. It has become anti-immigrant and anti-German."

What started last month as an opposition effort to collect enough signatures to weaken a key domestic policy initiative by the new chancellor has inflamed a national debate over who should be allowed to become a German.

Bitter recriminations are flying, with the center-left government accusing opposition Christian Democrats of fomenting racism. Skirmishes have broken out at sidewalk stands where conservative party faithful collect signatures. Civic and religious leaders have begun to speak out, fretting that anti-foreigner sentiment could damage the nation's image.

"This campaign is unholy," said Environment Minister Juergen Trittin, a leader in the Greens, the junior partner in the Social Democratic-led government. "It is encouraging violence and splitting our society in half."

The unwanted support of the far right is both predictable and "very dangerous," said Ignatz Bubis, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, which opposes the signature campaign.

The debate has become the latest instance of soul-searching to consume Germany since the elections in September. As a generation of leaders who never experienced World War II took over, they wrestled over the design of a Holocaust memorial in Berlin, legal claims by concentration camp survivors and arguments by Martin Walser, a prominent novelist, that he wears of nonstop reminders of the horrors of Auschwitz.

Those debates accompany declarations that the new Germany has become "normal" since its generational change.

Under watchful police sentries, the sidewalk stands across Germany have become ad hoc forums for counter-demonstrators, far-right gawkers and spontaneous outbursts of angry argument with pedestrians.

The chairman of the far-right Republican Party, Rolf Schlierer, this week announced that the time had come to join forces with the center-right Christian Democrats. In an open letter to the

Americans Turn Angry At Senate, Too, Over Trial

By Richard L. Berke
and Janet Elder
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Most Americans now condemn the Senate for its handling of the impeachment trial as much as they did the House of Representatives. Republicans are taking most of the blame.

The party's image has taken such a battering that half of conservative Republicans even say their party's prospects for the 2000 elections have been damaged, the latest New York Times/CBS News Poll shows.

While senators had pledged that they would not engage in the brutal partisanship that marked the House de-

liberation, the public views the entire matter in both chambers as more a Republican drive to undermine President Bill Clinton than an honest investigation of possibly serious crimes.

Americans now have grown so exasperated with their lawmakers that most people do not expect the Senate

The Senate struggles with its next move in the trial. Page 3.

trial to end Feb. 12 as Senate leaders have promised.

In a collective judgment that might be summed up as "Enough already!" Americans said impeachment by the House was adequate punishment for Mr. Clinton. While there is still public support for censure, the public would be just as happy if the whole matter were dropped without any final vote.

More than two-thirds of those polled said the Senate does not need to call witnesses to help them decide how to vote on the articles of impeachment. Nearly three-quarters said the videotaped testimony of Monica Lewinsky, Vernon Jordan and Sidney Blumenthal should not be made public. More than three-quarters said they have learned nothing new about the whole situation from the Senate trial.

Americans also think that voters' expectation with impeachment will come at the expense of Republicans in the elections next year.

Forty-eight percent of all Republicans and 50 percent of conservative Republicans said the way House and Senate Republicans have handled the matter would make it harder for Republican

AGENDA

U.S. Outlines Size Of a Kosovo Force

Defense Secretary William Cohen told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday that the administration might commit a "relatively small" U.S. ground force to Kosovo, but only if a firm peace agreement is reached soon.

Other NATO members should make up the majority of such a force, he said.

Pressed by senators on the likely size of the U.S. contingent, General Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, suggested that a maximum of 2,000 to 4,000 U.S. troops might be required if NATO decided on an overall force of 20,000.

He stressed that the number was hypothetical. Page 5.

The Dollar		
New York	Wednesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
Euro	1.1295	1.1341
Pound	1.6356	1.6388
Yen	112.975	112.145
DM	1.7303	1.7228
FF	5.8031	5.7847
Dollars per pound and per euro		
The Dow		
Wednesday close		percent change
+ \$2.69	8,366.81	+ 1.00%
S & P 500		
+ 10.05	1,272.03	+ 0.80%
Nasdaq		
+ 29.73	2,493.16	+ 1.21%

Farmers Accused of Piracy In a Landmark Gene Case

Producer of Seeds Charges They Are Misused

By Rick Weiss
Washington Post Service

BRUNO, Saskatchewan — On a January morning in central Canada, Percy Schmeiser looked over his frozen fields. "Here's where all the trouble began," he said, pointing to where private investigators last year arrived uninvited and snipped samples of his crops for DNA tests.

Mr. Schmeiser, 68, has been farming these fertile acres all his life, growing canola for the valuable oil in its seeds. And as farmers have done for thousands of years, he has saved some seeds from each year's harvest to replant his fields the following season.

Now, he said, "for doing what I've always done," he is being sued by Monsanto Co

Gondola Victims Honored / Marines on Trial for Involuntary Manslaughter**A Memorial Service and a Court-Martial**

By Steve Vogel
Washington Post Service

IN THE LITTLE town of Cavalese, set amid the majestic peaks of Italy's Dolomite Mountains, families from across Europe gathered Wednesday to unveil a memorial inscribed with 20 names. One year ago a U.S. Marine Corps EA-6B Prowler flew fast and low on a training mission up the Val di Fiemme and cut through cables holding a gondola carrying skiers from Cavalese to the slopes. The gondola plummeted to the valley floor and the 20 persons aboard — from Italy, Germany, Poland, Belgium and the Netherlands — were killed.

The passage of a year has done little to cool passions raised by the accident, which outraged many Italians, angered and bereaved family members, caused trouble between Washington and Rome and compromised the careers of the four Marine officers in the plane.

"It still burns like it did the first day," Cindy Renkewitz, 20, one of the family members who traveled to Cavalese, said Tuesday in phone conversation from the resort town. Her father and sister were among seven persons from the Eastern German town of Burgstorf who were killed.

The grief of family members has been further inflamed by bitterness that the U.S. government has yet to compensate in a major way families of those who died. The pilot and navigator stand accused of manslaughter for flying their jet too fast and too low. Marine commanders are accused of failing to properly equip the flyers and of bowing to political pressures in agreeing to charge the crew members.

Some family members plan to fly soon to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where the pilot of the plane, Captain Richard Ashby, faces a court-martial, beginning Thursday, on 20 counts of involuntary manslaughter. The navigator, Captain Joseph Schweitzer, faces a separate court-martial on similar charges on March 1. If convicted, they could spend the rest of their lives in prison.

The Prowler was flying up to 543 knots (624 miles an hour) when it struck the cable at a height of approximately 370 feet (112 meters), in violation of speed and altitude restrictions, according to estimates presented during preliminary hearings last summer.

Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Rodgers, who presided at the hearings, recommended that Captain Ashby be tried for involuntary manslaughter. But his report noted that a court-martial was in "substantial doubt" because of evidence of "systemic errors" on the part of the Marine Corps. The cable line, for example, was not on charts supplied to the crew.

SUPPORTERS OF Captain Ashby portray him as a scapegoat for Marine Corps failures. "This is unprecedented, to prosecute an air crew for an accident and make them criminally accountable," Frank Spinner, Captain Ashby's attorney, said.

But Colonel Rodgers, while voicing his doubts, also asserted that Captain Ashby might have been responsible for the accident by "overly aggressively" flying the plane. Colonel Rodgers also noted "questions raised by the evidence concerning Captain Ashby's professionalism."

A member of his Prowler squadron said the pilot had a reputation for being "cocky and aggressive" and for flying fast. Only 10 days before the accident, Captain Ashby had to be counseled by supervisors about a low takeoff he made from the Aviano air base, according to court documents.



Victims' relatives weeping Wednesday at a memorial that was unveiled in the cemetery in Cavalese, Italy, on the first anniversary of the incident.

A key item of controversy involves a personal video camera carried by the crew to make a home video of the scenic mountain terrain through which they were flying. Colonel Rodgers said the decision to shoot a video during the flight "arguably indicates a somewhat cavalier approach to a challenging low-level route with which the pilot and crew were not intimately familiar."

Perhaps more damaging to the crew's case is what they did with the tape after the flight.

Captain Chandler Seagraves, who was in the rear cockpit during the accident, had told prosecutors that Captain Ashby and Captain Schweitzer asked him a week after the accident, "What do you think we should do with the videotape" and I said I would get rid of it." A few days later, Captain Seagraves said, the two told him, "It's gone. We destroyed it."

Captain Ashby and Captain Schweitzer have been charged with obstruction of justice over the missing videotape. However, in Captain Ashby's case, that charge will be heard at a separate court-martial at the request of the defense.

Captain Seagraves and a second Marine officer in the rear cockpit during the accident, Captain William Raney 2d, were cleared of any criminal wrongdoing last summer. Each has been granted immunity and is expected to testify in the court-martial. In his sworn statement, Captain Seagraves disputed government claims that the crew was deliberately flying too low and too fast.

The defense will focus on failures up the Marine Corps chain of command, including a faulty map given to the aviators and the fact that the crew was instructed that they could fly as low as 1,000 feet, instead of the usual 2,000-foot restriction.

The government counters that the map did show

another aerial cableway a few miles away, presenting the crew with ample warning that low-level flights in that area were dangerous. And prosecutors say the crew would have avoided the gondola had they obeyed the 1,000-foot restriction.

ANOTHER LINE of defense involves the plane's radar altimeter, a device that should have warned the crew of its low altitude. An investigation after the accident found it was working. However, Colonel Rodgers wrote that the device's history of breaking down raises the "distinct possibility" it failed to function properly during the fatal flight.

The defense also will rely heavily on a Marine investigator who testified last summer about a computer simulation that demonstrated that an optical illusion may have fooled the crew into not realizing how low the jet was flying.

The investigator, Colonel Thomas Blickensderfer, also testified that plans on how to conduct an investigation soon after the accident changed after senior Marine commanders were told that Romano Prodi, then the Italian prime minister, had warned President Bill Clinton, "You Americans may never come out of Italy again."

But last month, the military judge who is expected to preside over the court-martial rejected defense motions to dismiss the cases because of improper command influence.

The gondola line at Cavalese, meanwhile, is back in service, thanks to a \$20 million appropriation from Congress.

But an effort by Senator Charles Robb, Democrat of Virginia, to include as much as \$60 million for the families of victims failed.

Shrinking Role Leaves Nigeria's Army Bitter

By Norimitsu Onishi
New York Times Service

KAJUNA, Nigeria — Weakened by malaria, chilled by the dusty harmattan blowing down from the Sahara, his left ankle still healing from a recent fall off his pony, the retired colonel was going through a bad stretch.

Colonel Abubakar Umar, his eyes blotted out by sunglasses, sat by himself at the Kaduna Polo Club on a recent Saturday afternoon. He had hoped to resume playing Sunday. But a bout of malaria had derailed his plans and left him sitting in a chair by the sidelines, facing an empty field, with not even the strength to pick up the hardcover book on a table beside him, "Colonial Army and Society in Northern Nigeria."

"The military was used by the British to conquer territories," said the colonel, who was the military governor of Kaduna state in the 1980s.

"It is seen as a tool of colonialism," he said. "The kind of people they had had no choice but to serve the interests of the British. Some people argue that the military is a continuation of colonial rule."

"But, the Nigerian military after independence is totally different from what it had been in colonial times."

After ruling the most populous African nation for many years, the Nigerian military is going through a collective bad stretch these days.

Ahead, its soldiers in a West African force were embarrassed in Sierra Leone when, under their watch, the capital, Freetown, almost fell to rebels in January.

At home, a presidential election is scheduled for Feb. 27, as a step toward a handover to a civilian government in May.

Many Nigerians believe that powerful generals, who are playing a big role in the election, will retain their influence over the next government and that a truly civilian government will emerge only in four or five years.

But the possibility of losing official political power — amid a growing public outcry that any civilian candidate is better than a military one — has unsettled many old soldiers in Kaduna.

This city is the seat of the military, which has ruled Nigeria for all but 10 years since independence from Britain in 1960. Frederick Lugard, the British governor general who cobbled various territories together to create Nigeria in 1914, founded Kaduna and made it the seat of power of the north.

Today, more than three decades after the Nigerian military academy was created here, Kaduna also has become something of a retirement community for senior officers.

In the 1970s, the governor of Kaduna state started giving out free lots of land in the city to senior officers. Once they began building houses on the lots in recent years, they saw they were all neighbors.

Inside one of the gated houses, Yohanna Madaki, a retired colonel and a former military governor in eastern Nigeria, was fuming.

"I am not going to stand by and see anyone exclude me from my country," he said.

"It is most unfair and most painful to have the people lump us and say that we are incompetent because we are the military," Colonel Madaki said. "It is painful."

It is perhaps at the Kaduna Polo Club that the military finds its social and spiritual center.

The British introduced polo in 1904 in Lagos, the country's commercial capital in the south. But it was in the north, in the horse-riding culture of the military and the emirs, that polo's popularity spread quickly; today, most of the 11 polo clubs in the country are dotted across the north. Until the late 1970s, when economic hard times strained the military's budget, polo was even mandatory at the national academy, Colonel Umar said.

Over the years, though, the Kaduna Polo Club has become a magnet not only for the military but also for powerful business and politicians. Not joining could prove costly.

Consider Abdulkadir Balbarabe Musa, a Marxist who during a brief period of political openness in the late 1970s was elected governor of Kaduna. Soon after taking office, Mr. Musa received a written invitation, along with a mallet, to join the club.

He threw away the invitation and gave the mallet to a servant.

"I don't play polo," Mr. Musa said recently. "It is the game of the rich and powerful, of neocolonialists."

In 1981, after all his choices for commissioners were rejected by the legislature, Mr. Musa was ousted from office. But he had no regrets.

"A neocolonialist," he said, "is a person who is a shadow, a caricature, a zombie. He does something and doesn't know the meaning of it."

On a recent Sunday, no such talk could be heard in the bar of the Kaduna Polo Club. Instead, between one of the three matches, Ibrahim Abdullahi, a retired major and the secretary of the Nigeria Polo Association, waxed on about the different breeds of ponies.

"This is a pure Sudanese," he told a visitor, "and the landing cost is now about \$15,000."

Professional players, businessmen and the sons of sultans dominated the three matches.

Colonel Umar, still recovering from malaria, sat in the front row in the viewing stands with a couple of fellow retired officers.

On this day, the officers did not play. But after each match, all the players filed past them and, in northern Nigeria's traditional gesture of respect, bowed their heads and raised clenched fists before them.

U.S. Airline Brings Fare War to East

By Laurence Zuckerman
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Since discount airlines like People Express collapsed more than a decade ago, airfares on the East Coast have remained stubbornly high even as prices have fallen elsewhere in the United States.

But new fare-cutting competition has begun to arrive in the East, led by Southwest Airlines, the biggest and most successful discount airline. Next month, Southwest will take on the most lucrative market in the nation when it comes to travel dollars: New York. Beginning with flights to four cities from MacArthur Airport in Long Island, Southwest will offer fares that are as little as half of the lowest comparable fares.

While some question whether Southwest can draw passengers to an airport 40 miles (60 kilometers) outside Manhattan,

the airline's track record so far on the East Coast suggests that New York air travelers — no matter which airport they use — can expect some fares to fall sharply.

In the last five years, Southwest has expanded to Baltimore, Providence, Rhode Island; Manchester, New Hampshire, and several cities in Florida.

At each airport, airfares have fallen sharply — even on routes not served by Southwest. Fares have also fallen at nearby airports.

US Airways, the largest airline in the region, and Delta Air Lines have responded to the challenge by expanding their new discount subsidiaries, which match Southwest's fares. The airlines have also sought to ward off Southwest by offering discounts in several markets it has yet to enter. Even the nation's biggest airline, United, is considering expanding its own low-cost subsidiary to the East Coast.

TRAVEL UPDATE**Heavy Snowfall Snarls Japan**

TOJKO (AP) — Heavy snow led to traffic accidents and disrupted air and rail travel Wednesday in central and western Japan.

At least 106 bullet trains linking Tokyo and western Japan were delayed for up to an hour, inconveniencing 85,000 passengers. In addition, local trains in cities along the Sea of Japan were canceled or delayed.

Sections of eight major highways in central and western Japan were closed because of poor visibility and snowfall.

The snow left 10,000 travelers stranded after 106 domestic flights were canceled, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. reported. The airport in Hiroshima was closed temporarily because of the storm, forcing a flight from Singapore to divert to Fukuoka airport on Japan's southernmost main island of Kyushu, said Yasushi Takeda, an official at the airport in Hiroshima.

Antibiotics May Reduce Risk of a Heart Attack

New York Times Service

55 percent. Other antibiotics did not reduce risk.

The drugs that did make a difference were especially effective against the bacterium *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, a common microbe that infects the respiratory tract and that many other studies have linked to heart disease. It can cause pneumonia, bronchitis and sinus infections but can also linger in the body without producing any symptoms at all. It is related to other chlamydial bacteria that infect the eyes and reproductive system.

But the researchers, whose work was published on Wednesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association, stressed that while the study showed that the drugs were associated with decreased risk of heart disease, it did not prove that the drugs caused the lowering of risk.

Dr. Herschel Jick of medicine at Boston University Medical Center in Lexington, Massachusetts, and leader of the study, warned that people should not start taking antibiotics to ward off heart attacks. "It's far from proof," he said, which decreased the risk by

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WEATHER

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by AccuWeather.



Maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. <http://www.accuweather.com>

Europe

	Today	High	Low	Wind	Tomorrow	High	Low	Wind
	High	Low	Wind	High	Low	Wind	High	Low
Algarve	50°	49°	C/F	50°	49°	C/F	50°	49°
Amsterdam	54°	53°	W	54°	53°	W	54°	

g Role Leaves Army Bitter

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hit the military's budget, polo was mandatory at the academy. Colonel Umar said.

Over the years, though, the Kaduna Polo Club has become a magnet for the military but also for politicians and business people joining could prove costly.

Consider Abdulkadir Balabare, a Marxist who during a brief period of political openness in the late 1970s, elected governor of Kaduna. Soon after taking office, Mr. Musa received an invitation along with a invite to join the club.

He threw away the invitation, gave the mallet to a servant.

"I don't play polo," Mr. Musa recently. "It is the game of the rich, powerful, of neocolonialists."

In 1981, after all his choices for ministers were rejected by the legislature, Mr. Musa was ousted from office. But he had no regrets.

"A neocolonialist, he said, "is a person who is a shadow, a caricature. He does something and does not know the meaning of it."

On a recent Sunday, no such would be heard in the bar of the Kaduna Polo Club. Instead, between one of three matches, Ibrahim Abdullahi, the major and the secretary of Nigeria Polo Association, watched the different breeds of ponies. "This is a pure Sudanese," he said. "The cost is \$15,000."

Traditional players, business men and sons of sultans dominate his audience.

Colonel Umar, still recovering from his heart attack, is in the front row of spectators, with a couple of fellow officers.

That day, the officers did not make the final match, all the more so because in northern traditional gesture of respect, heads and raised claps to encourage them.

Senators Struggle With Next Move as Outlook for Live Testimony Dims

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — House prosecutors completed their private questioning of witnesses Wednesday, but there was no sign of any sensational revelations and senators were searching for way to register their disapproval of President Bill Clinton's conduct without removing him from office.

Republicans, however, have expressed deep concern that Mr. Clinton will seize on an acquittal vote as exoneration.

Seeking to calm such fears, Joe Lockhart, the president's spokesman, suggested Wednesday that Mr. Clinton would "continue to take responsibility for the inappropriate nature of his behavior. That will last forever."

On Wednesday, prosecutors interviewed Mr. Blumenthal for about three hours, presumably about his earlier testimony that Mr. Clinton had aided Ms. Lewinsky was a stalker. By day's end, few senators of either party were pushing hard for live witnesses.

The Senate minority leader, Tom Daschle of South Dakota, made it clear that Democrats opposed calling witnesses. Emerging from a Democratic caucus, he said that the longer the trial continues, "the more it becomes a Republican trial." He urged a quick end.

Democrats also expressed opposition to any

variation of a Republican plan to formally declare Mr. Clinton guilty of wrongdoing, then proceed to his virtually certain acquittal on the charges of perjury and obstruction of justice facing him.

Mr. Daschle and other Democrats said that such "finding of fact" would be unconstitutional. White House spokesmen have said the same.

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"I don't think it would be necessary to have Monica Lewinsky appear before the U.S. senators," said Senator Olympia Snowe, a Maine Republican.

Mr. Hatch, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, conceded on NBC, "I doubt there will be the vote to have any live witnesses."

While the lead House prosecutor, Representative Henry Hyde of Illinois, said that five appearances "will be our firm request," there were signs that if the House managers push too hard, it could produce a split among Republicans.

There was interest in showing at least parts of the videotapes to the Senate, however.

As Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine, put it, "The public all of a sudden would realize that this is not a sophisticated woman who somehow ensnared the president of the U.S., but a very vulnerable young woman who was exploited by the president of the U.S."

Other senators, from both parties, said the Lewinsky interview showed nothing new.

"When I was watching the tape, also reading the transcript with it," said Senator Tom Harkin, a liberal Democrat from Iowa, "I thought to myself, 'I've been here before.'

Mr. Daschle said that for the sake of fairness, if the Senate voted to air the videotaped depositions, they should be aired in their entirety.

Mr. Lockhart said the videotaped depositions should remain secret, to avoid creating "a frenzy." Instead, he said, transcripts should be released.

The votes on witnesses and on the videotapes require a simple majority, or 51 of 100 votes.

Mr. Blumenthal, in earlier testimony, quoted Mr. Clinton as saying that he had rebuffed Ms. Lewinsky after she "came at me and made a sexual demand on me."

Prosecutors may have hoped as a Wall Street Journal editorial put it, to use Mr. Blumenthal's testimony to show "the president at his worst — so eager to obstruct justice that he is willing to ruin a young woman who unwisely loved him."

As part of the obstruction of justice charge, House managers have been trying to show that Mr. Clinton sought to mislead his aides in the expectation that they would provide a similar account to investigators working for the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

Mr. Jordan told reporters only days after Ms.

Lewinsky's name first surfaced in public last year that he had tried to help her find a job, but that he was doing no more for her than he had done for countless other young people. On Tuesday, he reportedly conceded having given the project an unusually high priority. For the first time, he acknowledged that he and Ms. Lewinsky had discussed the affidavit she was preparing to file in the Jones suit, in which Ms. Lewinsky denied having had a sexual relationship with Mr. Clinton, the Los Angeles Times reported.

But Mr. Jordan said that they spoke on the telephone, and that she asked him about some of the phrases she was working on, but he added that he did not ever see the affidavit.

Ms. Collins's plan to issue a "finding of fact" that cites Mr. Clinton's alleged misconduct but does not remove him from office, may be voted on as early as Monday.

An influential Democrat, Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, assailed the "findings of fact" idea in a Washington Post op-ed article. The idea, he said, "flies in the face of what the Framers of the Constitution intended."

"Byrd, a constitutional expert, said that "finding" would skirt the Framers' intention to set the impeachment bar high by requiring a simple majority, not the supermajority of two-thirds of the Senate to convict. He called the idea "a legislative mutant."

POLL: 'Enough Already!'

Continued from Page I

candidates to win elections in 2000: 28 percent said it would be easier.

The Republicans have definitely cooked their goose on this one," said Charlotte, a Republican poll respondent and retired grocery clerk from Bedford, Pennsylvania, who, in a follow-up interview, declined to give her last name.

"A lot of these politicians have been in Congress too long, and I think they have been trying to hang the president from Day 1."

In one of the most striking findings, the Senate's efforts to contain the trial by calling only three witnesses has done little to reassure Americans, who seem to view the matter as a painful ordeal they want to be over. Fifty-six percent disapprove of the way the Senate is handling the trial, while 37 percent approve.

Only three weeks ago, in a poll by CBS News, 41 percent disapproved of how the Senate was handling the trial, while 46 percent registered their approval. Even among self-identified conservative Republicans in the new poll, nearly a third said they did not approve of how the Senate was conducting the trial.

The latest nationwide telephone poll of 1,058 adults, conducted Saturday through Monday, was replete with signs that the Republican Party has not recovered from its dispiriting performance in the November election — and continues to suffer from how impeachment has been handled on Capitol Hill. The senators, who are serving as jurors, are viewed as unable to work together in a bipartisan manner — and Republicans draw the most blame for that.

Even on issues long considered the province of Republicans like reducing taxes and curbing crime, Democrats are viewed at least as qualified as Republicans. While Republicans are still viewed as the party best capable of upholding traditional moral values, Democrats are still considered most able to tackle issues like Social Security, education and health care.

Given a choice among cutting taxes, paying down the national debt, preserving Social Security and anything else, 64 percent of respondents said they wanted any surplus money to be used for Social Security. Only 12 percent said they would prefer to have cuts cut instead. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Big Judgment Stings On-Line Abortion Foes

By Sam Howe Verhovek
New York Times Service



Catherine Ramsey, a defendant, outside the courthouse, where she said she refused to pay damages "to an industry that thrives on killing children."

Holbrooke Reportedly Agrees To Pay Fine for Illegal Contacts

By Philip Shonan
New York Times Service

vestigation to determine whether prosecutors treated Mr. Holbrooke leniently.

Mr. Holbrooke, whose nomination has been stalled for eight months as a result of the joint ethics investigation by the Justice and State Departments, has denied wrongdoing in his contacts with the embassy in Seoul and Ambassador James Laney.

Friends described Mr. Holbrooke as wistful about forgoing a run for president.

Officials said the settlement did not require an admission of wrongdoing by Mr. Holbrooke and should allow his nomination for the UN post to be submitted this month to the Senate for confirmation.

The case was brought under federal solicitor general and the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act of 1994. That legislation makes it illegal to use "force or threat of force" against anyone seeking or providing an abortion.

The plaintiffs said they were using the legal tactics of civil rights groups that had won judgments allowing them to seize the assets and so shut down the operations of Ku Klux Klan organizations.

But several of the 14 defendants — individuals and organizations grouped as the American Coalition of Life Activists and Advocates for Life Ministries — said they would not pay the judgment awarded Tuesday.

"I could not in good conscience give money to an industry that thrives on killing children," one of the defendants, Catherine Ramsey, said outside the federal courthouse. "That would be like asking Martin Luther King to pay money to the Ku Klux Klan."

Federal ethics laws bar officials leaving the government from a variety of contacts with former colleagues.

The nomination still has to be reviewed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and its often unpredictable chairman, Senator Jesse Helms, Republican of North Carolina. Mr. Helms has promised that he will scrutinize the in-

vestigation twice a day one pill that combines two drugs, significantly abbreviates the treatment period. It works about as well whether the women start taking the pills about three weeks before delivery or at the onset of labor, which in many poor

Gephardt Declining To Run for President

WASHINGTON — Representative Dick Gephardt of Missouri is taking himself out of the running for president to devote himself full-time to reshaping the House for Democrats in 2000 with the expectation that he will become speaker.

Friends said that Mr. Gephardt had drawn two strong political conclusions: that Vice President Al Gore had already laid a formidable claim to the Democratic nomination and that House Republicans were vulnerable to a takeover because their impeachment of President Bill Clinton was so unpopular with the public.

An associate of Mr. Gephardt's said that he did not have the fire in the belly to run for president. "It's not in his gut," this confidant said, adding that Mr. Gephardt was more drawn by the fight for the House.

His departure from the field may also entice at least one other Democrat — Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts — into the race. So far, only former Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey has announced his challenge to Mr. Gore for the nomination. Two other senators, Bob Kerrey of Nebraska and Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, have backed off.

Mr. Gephardt began privately telling his Democratic colleagues Tuesday of his decision, which he was to formally announce late Wednesday.

Friends described Mr. Gephardt as wistful about forgoing a run for president.

Each pill contains two standard anti-HIV drugs: AZT, or zidovudine, and 3TC, or lamivudine. The women take one pill in the morning and the other in the evening.

Dr. Joseph Saba, a UN official in the AIDS program who reported the findings at a science conference here, expressed hope that the strategy would sharply reduce the number of babies born infected.



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Away From Politics

The U.S. Postal Service had a \$550 million surplus in the fiscal year that ended last September, its fourth straight profitable year. The agency's annual report said it handled 498 billion pieces of mail in the year, or approximately 376,712 items a minute — 41 percent of the world's mail, the post office said. (AP)

The Seattle Times, long a flourishing afternoon newspaper, will become a morning paper and compete head-to-head against the rival Seattle Post-Intelligencer. The change will take place within two years as part of a restructuring joint operating agreement between the Seattle Times Co. and the Hearst Corp., which owns the Post-Intelligencer. (AP)

* Only about half of all people infected with the AIDS virus in the United States are getting treatment, researchers at the RAND Corporation told reporters at an international AIDS conference in Chicago. (Reuters)

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

INTERNATIONAL

CEO of an \$11 Billion-a-Year Enterprise: CounterterrorismBy Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Richard Clarke is the White House terrorism czar. His stock in trade is the stuff of techno-thrillers: biological bombs in the Wall Street subway, chemical clouds of death in the Pentagon parking lot, cyberwar attacks crippling the nation's computers.

Pale as skin milk, his once-red hair gone white at 48, he works long days and nights in Oliver North's old office at the National Security Council, keeping a profile so low that almost no one outside his top-secret world knows he exists.

As chairman of the government's chief counterterrorism group for the last seven years, he has become what John le Carré calls an "intelloctat" — a gray baron who seems to command nothing more than his desk, yet waves a wand and sends soldiers, guns, money and spies around the world.

Mr. Clarke inspires ferocious loyalty from friends and fierce enmity from foes inside the government. He wins praise for getting things done in secret — and criticism for exactly the same. At the National Security Council, where he landed in 1992 after losing his State Department

job in a bitter battle over Israel's misuse of American military technology, he can operate without outside oversight so long as he has President Bill Clinton's confidence.

He has it. The president recently named him the nation's counterterrorism coordinator, a new and powerful post. He has to try to coordinate everything from the Pentagon and its evolving plans to defend the United States against terrorists down to local police and fire departments. Despite years of effort to pull it all together, this has never been accomplished.

The mission of protecting Americans from attack, whether by states or rogue groups, is "almost the primary responsibility of the government," Mr. Clarke says.

He is trying to raise the fear of terrorism in the States to the right level — higher, not too high — as he girds the nation for the possibility of an assault from nerve gas, bacteria and viruses, and for what he calls "an electronic Pearl Harbor."

He has to walk a fine line. "You want people to understand the peril without panicking," said Anthony Lake, his boss at the National Security Council from 1993 to 1996.

Mr. Clarke has a reserved seat when cabinet officers gather at the White House on national

security issues. "My name is on the table next to Madeleine Albright and Bill Cohen," the secretary of state and defense, Mr. Clarke said. His vote carries the weight of those cast by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the director of central intelligence.

He helped drive the decision to fire cruise missiles at Afghanistan and Sudan in August, trying to strike at Osama bin Laden, overpowering dissenters at the State Department and the CIA. Now he is helping to steer secret operations aimed at capturing the Saudi exile, who is accused of bombing two U.S. embassies.

Mr. Clarke has also written at least four classified presidential directives on terrorism. They helped expand the government's counterterrorism cadre into the \$11 billion-a-year enterprise he now coordinates, stifling some protests at the Justice Department and the Pentagon, which saw him as a competitor for money and power.

In his office, where a small sign reads "Think Globally/Act Globally," he spoke passionately about the threat of cyberwar, invisible attacks on U.S. computers, a terror so insidious, so arcane that has trouble convincing corporate chieftains and political commissars it is real. But it is out there, somewhere, he says, even if he cannot prove it.

"There is a problem convincing people that there is a threat," he said. "There is disbelief and resistance. Most people don't understand. CEOs of big corporations don't even know what I'm talking about. They think I'm talking about a 14-year-old hacking into their Web sites."

"I'm talking about people shutting down a city's electricity," he added, "shutting down 911 systems, shutting down telephone networks and transportation systems. You black out our city, people die. Black out lots of cities, lots of people die. It's as bad as being attacked by bombs."

"An attack on American cyberspace is an attack on the United States, just as much as a landing on New Jersey," he said. "The notion that we could respond with military force against a cyber-attack has to be accepted."

Why would anyone want to mount such an attack? "To extort us," he said. "To intimidate us. To get us to abandon our foreign policy — 'Abandon Israel or else!'"

"Imagine a few years from now: A president goes forth and orders troops to move. The lights go out, the phones don't ring, the trains don't move. That's what we mean by an electronic Pearl Harbor."

Enemies and allies alike say Mr. Clarke wins



Jeff Glodner/The Associated Press
Richard Clarke, the coordinator of U.S. government efforts to prevent terrorism.

battles by working longer hours and twisting more arms. "I like Dick so much for the same reason that some people have not liked him: He has a passion for getting things done," said Mr. Lake. "That can be abrasive."

JAPAN: Job Losses Tear Into Self-Image

Continued from Page 1

his privacy and seeking to capitalize on his woes. Job-seekers at another branch merely turned their faces away the instant they saw a camera.

"Japanese people are ashamed to be unemployed," said Masahide Naito, who is in charge of helping those over age 45 at the Idabashi branch of Hello Work. "It's an embarrassment, something that you hide."

The Japanese employment system, heavy on lifetime loyalty guaranteed by seniority-based pay, has been crumbling since 1993, when many corporate titans started campaigns to trim their work forces.

But that erosion moved at the pace of molasses compared with what happened last year, when the unemployment rate jumped an alarming seven-tenths of a percentage point to an average 4.1 percent. The rate was 4.3 percent in December, one-tenth of a point down from the record high in November. Compounding the problem, companies struggling to avoid layoffs cut wages, which fell at an annual rate of 6.8 percent in December, the worst decline on record.

These statistics have rocked the psyche of a nation that has previously regarded itself as blessedly immune from the economic afflictions suffered by other developed countries.

"I had been hearing about such things on television, but now I'm hearing these stories directly from my classmates, and I'm hearing not just from one but from many," said Hisako Aoyama, one of three women in a class of 28 studying janitorial services at the Tokyo Metropolitan Shinagawa Technical College, a vocational school financed by the city government.

It is a deeply unsettling experience for most Japanese, particularly the men over 45 who are being forced en masse out of companies they joined as college graduates. Their high salaries and looming lump-sum retirement payments provide an obvious target for corporate cost-cutters.

"At 51, I'm at a time of change in my life," said Stigeru Kikuya, a classmate of Mrs. Aoyama, who lost his job as a procurement officer in a factory last March. "The only thing I can do is persevere and hope I can turn my life around."

But the prospects of landing a job for most men his age are slim at best, according to officials at Hello Work.

After Mr. Akimoto, the former Shoshiba manager, finally told his wife of his plight, she urged him to seek help from the Tokyo Managers' Union, a group set up four years ago to represent middle managers who are not union members.

A lifetime employee of Shoshiba whose salary had increased in lockstep with his seniority, Mr. Akimoto had expected to work at the company until he retired at age 60. But with Nissan fighting for its life, Mr. Akimoto's company could no longer afford to keep him on.

"I am angry," he said. "But I don't know where to direct my anger. The company did try to help me find another job at least."

The only job he has found so far as a driver or as the man who waves a light baton at construction sites to direct traffic. He would earn less than \$200,000 a month after tax, or about \$1,770 at current exchange rates. That is less than the unemployment benefits he receives, but those will run out in late March unless he enrolls in a job training course.

"Right now, rather than immediately taking a job as a driver, I would like to

continue to look for a while," Mr. Akimoto said. "But there is no question that my income will be less than half what I was earning."

Fearful of the social costs that may accompany frustration of the sort Mr. Akimoto is experiencing, the government goes to great lengths to try to keep unemployment figures from rising, providing generous public subsidies to companies to keep workers on their payrolls.

"There is so-called invisible unemployment in corporations today that may become visible in the future, in which case the rate will become much higher than it is now," warned Akira Amari, the labor minister, at a recent press gathering.

Mr. Amari refused to make any estimates of what the real level would be.

"These kinds of figures can drive up the insecurity of the Japanese consumer, so, excuse me, I cannot say what the figures are," he said. "It's my corporate secret."

Although the government has spent upward of \$800 billion to stimulate economic activity, the unemployment rate has climbed steadily.

"Just after the measures are implemented, the number of jobs that comes open increases a little," said Kazuaki Mishima, an official at the Idabashi Hello Work office. "But the effect doesn't last long, the measures don't really have that much impact."

BRIEFLY**7 Girls in Algeria Are Reported Freed**

ALGIERS — Security forces killed 40 armed Muslim extremists and arrested five and freed seven kidnapped girls in a 10-day sweep in eastern Algeria, the daily El Aci reported Wednesday.

The helicopter-supported army operation, backed by police and village self-defense groups, also resulted in the seizure of 17 home-made mortars and the destruction of several arms caches, the newspaper said. The security forces suffered no casualties, it added. (AFP)

Foes Reported to Sign Guinea-Bissau Pact

DAKAR, Senegal — Leaders of the warring sides in Guinea-Bissau signed a cease-fire accord Wednesday, paving the way for hundreds of regional intervention troops to deploy in the small west African state, sources there said.

The rebels' leader, the sacked army chief General Ansumane Mane, and the head of state, President Joao Bernardo Vieira, signed the accord presented by a visiting ministerial delegation from Togo, the sources said. (AFP)

Hard-Liner Seeks Mexico Presidency

MEXICO CITY — Manuel Bartlett Diaz, one of Mexico's most controversial politicians and a leading hard-liner in the governing party, has started a campaign to win the party's presidential nomination for the election next year.

Until now, the party's unwritten rules allowed the sitting president to pick his successor, a practice that President Ernesto Zedillo has promised to scrap. Mr. Bartlett was governor of Puebla state until his term ended Monday. (Reuters)

Clinton Will Meet 2 Latin Presidents

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton will meet Friday with Presidents Alberto Fujimori of Peru and Jamil Mahuad of Ecuador to support a peace agreement the two nations signed in October.

The two presidents will be in Washington seeking global aid for a 10-year development plan for their Andean border, which was most recently the scene of fighting in 1995. (Reuters)

For the Record

Yasser Arafat affirmed Wednesday his intention of carrying out the stalled West Bank peace accords with Israel. The Palestinian leader spoke after talks in Washington with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. (AP)

Arabs in Gulf Wary of Bid to Oust Saddam

Reuters

DUBAI — A U.S. campaign to overthrow President Saddam Hussein in Iraq has encountered opposition in neighboring Gulf nations, analysts said here Wednesday.

Arab leaders are skeptical about the plan, the analysts said, which some of the leaders fear would be a dangerous precedent and pose hazards to the entire region.

A senior U.S. diplomatic official who toured five nations seeking support for a \$97 million campaign aimed at overthrowing the Iraqi leader said there was "a consensus about the continuing danger that Saddam Hussein poses to Iraq's neighbors and to its people."

Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk also noted after his talks with leaders of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates they argued strongly that change needed to come from within Iraq.

"We agree with that," he added.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Maktoum, defense minister of the United Arab Emirates, expressed strong reservations, the official news agency said. The defense minister feared that any political change in Iraq imposed from outside could lead to rifts and civil war, the agency said.

In Oman, a government statement said Sultan Qaboos bin Said stressed to Mr. Indyk the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The statement also spoke of continuous efforts to help ease economic sanctions against Iraq to alleviate the suffering of ordinary people — a common theme in Gulf nations sensitive to TV images of distress caused by shortages.

Oman, too, had reservations about the U.S. plan. "It is an internal matter for Iraq," a senior Foreign Ministry official said. "We would prefer this matter should be left to the Iraqi people to decide whether they want a change or not or whom they want as their leader. Any outside interference will not be in the best interest of anybody."



Despite years of war, threats of more war, UN sanctions and strong government controls over the economy, Iraqi investors gather three days a week at the Baghdad bourse to watch the big board and look for deals.

IRAQ: U.S. Widens Its Target List as Jets Face Growing Challenge

Continued from Page 1

offered a bounty equal to about \$14,000 to any Iraqi who shoots down an American or British jet. Iraq offered a smaller bounty for capturing a pilot.

The U.S. defense secretary, William Cohen, scoffed at the gesture, saying it was "just another example of Saddam Hussein flailing out."

Last week, President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, Samuel Berger, disclosed that Mr. Clinton had given American pilots wider authority to retaliate when threatened, allowing them to strike at any Iraqi military defense system, not just those that actually targeted the aircraft.

In the Tuesday strike, four jets from the carrier Carl Vinson — two F-14s and two F/A-18s — attacked an anti-shipping missile site on Fao Peninsula south of Basra, even though there were no indications Iraqis there were preparing to fire.

Officials at the Pentagon said Iraq had readied the missile in the last week. It was described as a Soviet-made CSSC-3 capable of hitting a ship up to 60 miles

(100 kilometers) away.

"They put them on launchers and put the launchers in a position to fire into the Persian Gulf," said an official.

According to the Pentagon, the Carl Vinson's jets attacked the site with four precision-guided bombs. One official said the bombs appeared to strike their target because they were followed by secondary blasts, presumably from munitions.

During the raids in December, U.S. and British forces attacked 100 targets in all. The commander who directed that attack, General Anthony Zinni, reported that the missile strike had destroyed the vast majority of their targets. The jets had less luck with the 34 air-defense targets they attacked, destroying half.

Since then, the U.S. strikes had been limited to missile batteries, radar facilities and other parts of Iraq's air defenses. The officials said they would not rule out striking other facilities, but for now they do not plan a broader air campaign.

Administration and Pentagon officials said they were content to continue

retaliating as long as Iraq continued to challenge the American and British patrols.

Appearing before the House's Armed Services Committee, Mr. Cohen said that each time Iraqi forces threatened the pilots, "They're going to pay a penalty for it."

In the last few days, Iraq has withdrawn some of its surface-to-air missiles — including Soviet-made SA-2s and SA-3s — from the no-flight zones in what officials described as an apparent attempt by the Iraqi military to protect its most potent weaponry from attacks.

In recent weeks, the United States has moved more aircraft into the region, including more F-16s and EA-6Bs armed with radar-seeking missiles. There are now roughly 200 American aircraft patrolling the southern no-flight zone from the Carl Vinson and from bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and another 40 or so are patrolling the northern zone from Incirlik, Turkey.

Iraq has roughly two dozen jets patrolling the two zones.

So far, neither the United States nor Britain has lost any pilots or aircraft. Their tactics are designed, in part, to limit that possibility, by attacking with long-range missiles and steering clear of attempts by Iraqis to lure jets into what U.S. officials call missile "traps."

There are military and political risks in this newly aggressive strategy. Last week, at least one American missile missed its target and struck a residential area in southern Iraq, the Pentagon acknowledged. Iraq said 11 civilians were killed.

Turkey, one of the closest U.S. allies in the region, has signaled some uneasiness over the continuing strikes. Defense Minister Hikmet Sami Turk said in an interview Tuesday that his country wanted to renegotiate the rules of engagement for jets operating out of its territory, though he did not specify what changes were being considered.

■ Last Americans Ordered Out

The UN ordered the last remaining Americans working for the United Nations to leave Iraq because the Iraqi government says it cannot guarantee their safety, officials said Wednesday.

A UN spokesman, Fred Eckhard, said the order only involved two Americans because all other Americans and all Britons working for the UN have already left the country.

from dealing with telephone recordings.

In Aberdeen, South Dakota, a would-be robber was foiled by his own cologne. Jerold Nissen of Aberdeen wore a Halloween mask as he entered the town's casino Nov. 4 with a loaded gun. When he announced the robbery, a casino clerk recognized his cologne ("Vegas Nights") as that of a regular patron and addressed Mr. Nissen by name. His joke, she told him, was not funny.

So he put the gun away, took off his mask and sat down to play at a lottery machine. There it would end had casino officials not noticed the next day that the phone line had been cut. A search of Mr. Nissen's truck turned up the mask, a gun and wire clippers.

Mr. Nissen has been sentenced to seven years in prison.

The surest sign that women have arrived as power brokers in the Washington state Senate, some say with a chuckle, came when they took over the biggest bathroom off the Senate chamber. If bathroom control is the barometer of power, bathrooms in some other states could be changing hands.

The Washington women's power play was made possible by their 2-to-1 majority in the Democratic caucus. Overall, Washington state has the country's highest percentage of female legislators — 41 percent, with 60 of 147 seats.



Richard Clarke, the coordinator of U.S. government efforts to prevent terrorism

ates by working longer hours and twice one arms. "I like Dick so much for the reason that some people have not liked him as a passion for getting things done," said Clarke. "That can be abrasive."

es Tear Into Self-Image

continue to look for a while," Mr. Almato said. "But there is no question that my income will be less than half what was earning."

Fearful of the social costs that accompany frustration of the war in Afghanistan, the government goes to great lengths to try to keep unemployment figures from rising, providing generous public subsidies to companies to keep workers on their rolls.

"There is so-called invisible unemployment in corporations today that may become visible in the future, in which case the rate will become much higher than it is now," warned Atsushi Amami, labor minister, at a recent press briefing.

Mr. Amami refused to make any estimates of what the real level would be. "These kinds of figures can drive the insecurity of the Japanese consumer, so, excuse me, I cannot say what the figures are," he said. "It's my corporate secret."

Although the government has spent upward of \$800 billion to stimulate economic activity, the unemployment rate has climbed steadily.

"Just after the measures are implemented, the number of jobs that come with increases a little," said Kazuo Mishima, an official at the Japanese Hello Work office. "But the effect doesn't last long, the measures don't really have that much impact."

BRIEFLY

7 Girls in Algeria Are Reported Freed

ALGIERS — Security forces killed 40 armed Muslim extremists and rescued five and freed seven kidnappers in a 10-day sweep in eastern Algeria, the daily El Aoual reported Wednesday.

The helicopter-supported operation, backed by police and village self-defense groups, also resulted in the seizure of 17 home-made mortars and the destruction of several arms cache, the newspaper said. The security force suffered no casualties, it added.

Foes Reported to Sign Guinea-Bissau Pact

DAKAR, Senegal — Leaders of the warring sides in Guinea-Bissau signed a cease-fire accord Wednesday, paving the way for hundreds of regional intervention troops to deploy in the small West African state, sources there said. The rebels' leader, the sacked army chief General Ansúmane Mané, and the head of state, President José Bernardo Vieira, signed the accord presented by visiting ministerial delegation from both the sources said.

Hard-Liner Seeks Mexico Presidency

MEXICO CITY — Manuel Barletta, one of Mexico's most controversial politicians and a leading hard-line in the governing party, has started a campaign to win the party's presidential nomination for the election next year. Until now, the party's unification allowed the strong president to pick his successor, a practice that President Ernesto Zedillo has promised to stop. Mr. Barletta was governor of Puebla state until his term ended Monday.

Clinton Will Meet 2 Latin Presidents

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton will meet Friday with President Alvaro Uribe of Peru and Juan Manuel Santos of Ecuador to support a peace agreement the two nations signed a decade ago.

The two presidents will be in Washington seeking global and a developmental plan for their Andean neighbors, which was most recently signed in 1995.

For the Record

Panzer Afonso affirmed Wednesday the intention of carrying out the stalled West Bank peace accord with Palestinian leader spoke after talks in Washington with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

R

EUROPE

Russia Urges U.S. to Help Fix Computers for 2000

Courtesy of Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — Russia conceded Wednesday that it needed up to \$3 billion to correct the Year 2000 computer glitch — six times its original estimate — and it appealed to the United States to help fix Russian computers controlling nuclear weapons.

Overwhelmed with obligations to pensioners and foreign creditors, Russia's government has long played down the cost and urgency of confronting the so-called millennium bug, which could destabilize computer systems that control its nuclear arsenal, the world's second largest.

The cost is staggering in a country so short of money that its draft budget for this year foresees just \$21 billion in government revenues.

On Tuesday, the United States warned that Europe could face a natural gas shortage if its largest supplier, the Russia giant enterprise Gazprom, failed to eliminate the computer millennium bug in its system.

George Tenet, the director of Central Intelligence, in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, warned that the Y2K bug could interrupt energy flows "in certain countries."

He cited Europe as a potential victim of the millennium bug because it receives "more than one-third" of its natural gas from Russia.

Last year, officials estimated Russia would need \$500 million to make certain that older computers did not interpret the "00" appearing at midnight next Dec. 31 as 1900 rather than the new millennium of 2000.

But the total sum was announced before a thorough review of the problem said Alexander Krupnov, chairman of the Central Telecommunications Commission.

After the first extensive study of government agencies facing potential computer failures — those that control military facilities, oil pipelines and airports — Mr. Krupnov raised the estimate to \$2 billion or \$3 billion.

And with just 330 days to go before the changeover, Mr. Krupnov said each agency was responsible for finding funds to solve the problem. "Now they're seeking their own sources of financing," he said.

He made no suggestions where the cash might come from, but he did appeal to NATO and the U.S. Defense Department to consult with Moscow on the problem.

In his testimony Tuesday, Mr. Tenet made these other points:

• "There is no doubt that China has the potential to affect our security posture in Asia, but the extent to which its ambitions and growing capabilities represent a challenge or threat to U.S. interests is still an open question."

• "China is increasing the size and survivability of its retaliatory nuclear missile force, even though it is unlikely to make the resource commitment needed to approach the force levels of either the United States or Russia."

• "China is also developing and ac-

quiring air and naval systems intended to deter the United States from involvement in a Taiwan Strait crisis and to extend China's fighting capability beyond its coastline."

• "In nearly all respects, the situation here has become more volatile and unpredictable."

"Fresh signs of social decay have increased our concern about stability in North Korea. Crime and insubordination are commonplace even in the military and security services."

• "North Korea remains a serious military threat, despite dire economic conditions... Pyongyang continues to devote considerable resources to its mainline military, which can still initiate a full-scale war on the peninsula and inflict massive damage on South Korea and the 37,000 American troops deployed there."

• "India and Pakistan continue to have fragile governments committed to potentially destabilizing nuclear and missile programs. Both India and



George Tenet, director of central intelligence, sees Year 2000 risks.

France Seeks Changes in EU's Plan to Add Members

By Barry James

International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — France threatened the European Union's enlargement plan Wednesday by demanding changes in the Amsterdam Treaty that provides the basis for adding as many as 10 countries in Eastern and Central Europe plus Cyprus.

A French spokesman said the government would insist on a supplementary clause and insist on reforms in the EU's institutional structure before completing the enlargement process.

The French shift followed German warnings that no date could be set for enlargement until the EU achieved a radical reform of its budget, to which Germany is a large net contributor.

The budget reform, which also requires sweeping changes in the EU's agricultural and structural funding policies, will be the subject of summit meetings in Bonn this month, Berlin next month and Cologne in June.

A joint parliamentary assembly in Versailles last month amended the French Constitution to allow the government to cede sovereignty to the EU under the Amsterdam Treaty, including placing immigration policy in the hands of the Union. The French National Assembly and Senate are scheduled to take up the Amsterdam text next month.

Of the EU's 15 members, only France, Belgium, Greece and Portugal have not yet ratified the treaty, which requires unanimity.

The spokesman said the French government would call for specific changes in the composition of the European Commission, the EU's executive body, and a different weighting of votes in the European Council representing member governments.

The treaty "does not take account of the wish by the government and many deputies to affirm the need for an institutional reform in the EU before its planned enlargement," the spokesman said.

Any changes to the treaty would require the assent of all member countries and could mean its resubmission to the parliaments of countries that already have ratified it. The spokesman said France's position was not isolated: Italy and Belgium also have called for institutional changes before the EU could expand, he said.

The Christian Democrats are unwilling to say how many signatures they have collected or how many they think they need to weaken Mr. Schroeder.

But already there are signs that the tactic could backfire. A better reading of the public mood could come Sunday during state elections in Hessen, where dual citizenship has become a burning issue. If the conservatives lose, as nearly all polls suggest, Mr. Schaeuble is bound to lose authority in his own party.

But a spokesman insisted that the petition drive would continue in any case.

Peter Struck, Mr. Schroeder's parliamentary leader, said that would only play into the hands of the far-right parties. "They are going to have to ask themselves if they know what sort of spirits they are awakening," he said.

KOSOVO: U.S. Considers 'Relatively Small' Force

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary William Cohen told Congress on Wednesday that the administration might commit a "relatively small" U.S. ground force to Kosovo, but only if a firm peace agreement is reached between warring factions.

Other NATO members should make up the majority of such a force, he said.

Pressed by senators on the likely size of the U.S. contingent, General Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, suggested that a maximum of 2,000 to 4,000 U.S. troops might be required if NATO decided on an overall force of 20,000.

But, he told the Senate Armed Services Committee, those numbers were hypothetical.

"The numbers are still being worked," he said. "The numbers that we would be asked to give would depend on what the final numbers are."

BRIEFLY

Poland's Appeal: End Roadblocks

WARSAW — The government appealed to striking farmers Wednesday to dismantle roadblocks as talks over ways to improve the farmers' plight stalled.

Negotiating for the government, Labor Minister Longin Komolowski asked that farmers remove the roadblocks as a condition for resuming talks that began Tuesday but were called off that evening.

Warsaw had hoped that by opening talks it could persuade farmers to lift the blockades, but the police reported 20 barriers on major roads and about 60 on local ones. But traffic generally was moving well, with detours having been organized. The protest began Jan. 25 after calls for higher produce prices and for farm debts to be erased. (AP)

Cyprus to Press For Peacekeepers

BRUSSELS — The government of Cyprus will launch a diplomatic drive for an international force to be deployed on the divided island, Foreign Minister Yannakis Cassiolides said here Wednesday.

He said the deployment of such a force, possibly organized by NATO, would allow the island to be demilitarized and could take place "even before we have found a political settlement."

Mr. Cassiolides said the proposed peacekeeping force would require a UN Security Council mandate and could only go ahead with the agreement of Turkey, which has occupied northern Cyprus since 1974.

Once the force was deployed, both Turkey, which has an estimated 35,000 soldiers stationed in the north, and Greece, which has a smaller contingent in the south, would be expected to withdraw their troops, he said. (AP)

French Ex-Minister Accused in Death

PARIS — A week before three former ministers go on trial for their roles in an AIDS-tainted blood scandal, the parents of a young woman who died of the disease have filed a complaint against a fourth former official, judicial sources said Wednesday.

The complaint, also brought by an association representing victims of tainted blood transfusions, charges a former health minister, Claude Evin, with not assisting a person in danger, concealing crimes and hindering the judicial process, the sources said on condition of anonymity.

Those set to stand trial for involuntary homicide are a former prime minister, Laurent Fabius; a former health minister, Edmond Hervé, and a former social affairs minister, Georgina Dufoix. (AP)

Clinton Will Meet 2 Latin Presidents

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton will meet Friday with President Alvaro Uribe of Peru and Juan Manuel Santos of Ecuador to support a peace agreement the two nations signed a decade ago.

The two presidents will be in Washington seeking global and a developmental plan for their Andean neighbors, which was most recently signed in 1995.

For the Record

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Continued from Page 1

chairman of the Christian Democrats, Wolfgang Schaeuble, and Edmund Stoiber, the chairman of his Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union. Mr. Schaeuble noted "with satisfaction" that their petition embraced Republicans' positions on "foreigner policy."

Mr. Cohen told the panel that he could support sending U.S. troops to Kosovo only if an agreement providing for a cease-fire of from three to five years was put in place.

He promised to consult with Congress before committing U.S. troops.

"We can't really size the force until we've got an agreement," he said. "We're not there yet."

Mr. Cohen added that the Pentagon was coming to Congress to discuss the issue while it was still in the planning stage. "That's the reason why we're starting this process now," he said.

West Steps Up the Pressure

Western powers stepped up diplomatic and military pressure on Yugoslavia on Wednesday to attend the peace talks in France. Reuters reported from Pristina, Serbia.

Separatist guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army said Tuesday that they would attend. But President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia has held back.

The Serbian Parliament is expected to vote Thursday on whether to send delegates to Paris.

The European Union's envoy to Kosovo, Wolfgang Petritsch, urged the Yugoslav and Serbian governments in Belgrade to come to the talks, which have been called by the six-nation Contact Group of major powers that handles Balkan diplomacy.

The U.S. envoy Chris Hill was also due in Belgrade and was expected to meet late Wednesday with President Milan Milutinovic of Serbia, another diplomat said.

The most explosive feature of the

plan allows foreigners to become Germans without renouncing prior nationality. In effect, for the first time, newly naturalized Germans could hold two passports.

Conservatives argue that this would split allegiances and hinder integration by leaving millions of new Germans with divided loyalties. "It is not a real decision if they can keep their old passport; it is a half decision," one Christian Democrat leader said.

Mr. Schaeuble says dual citizenship will spark resentment of those who hold it.

Mr. Stoiber, who is pushing for a referendum on dual citizenship, said the reforms could invite the Turkish-Kurdish conflict to German soil by attracting more foreigners. He estimated that the danger to German security would be greater than that posed by the leftist terrorists in the 1970s and '80s.

The issue divides Germans along generational lines more than by party affiliation, said Tom Koenigs, leader of the Greens in the state of Hessen and a supporter of dual citizenship.

But already there are signs that the tactic could backfire. A better reading of the public mood could come Sunday during state elections in Hessen, where dual citizenship has become a burning issue.

Peter Struck, Mr. Schroeder's parliamentary leader, said that would only play into the hands of the far-right parties. "They are going to have to ask themselves if they know what sort of spirits they are awakening," he said.

ITALY: EU Says It Should Revise 'Over-Optimistic' Budget Plan

Continued from Page 1

lower-than-expected growth in 1998 and 1999, Italy risked missing its projected targets for public deficit spending, which should not exceed 3 percent of gross domestic product under the criteria laid down by the Maastricht treaty.

Growth in Italy has slowed because of the expiration of a government program to encourage car purchases and as the economic crises in Russia, Asia and Latin America have hurt Italian exports.

At the same time, the commission said it would step up its investigation into Italy's plans to inject 120 million euros (\$136.1 million) worth of state aid into the auto manufacturer Fiat SpA.

The commission concluded that the macroeconomic assumptions on which

Italian forecasts were based "now seem over-optimistic." It questioned forecasts of economic growth of 2.5 percent in 1999 and 3 percent in

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune
INTERNATIONAL
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST**Arithmetic for Kosovo**

The United States and its European allies are debating their respective commitments of troops to a possible Kosovo peacekeeping force. It is an interesting question, entailing issues of American leadership and European responsibility. But the most important number is a different one: how many troops and police, if any, Serbia will be permitted to retain in Kosovo.

If this number is high, a NATO force will have to be very large indeed to succeed. But if NATO insists that all Serbian forces must withdraw, then every NATO ally's contribution can be smaller.

Kosovo is a province of Serbia, which in turn is the biggest chunk of what remains of Yugoslavia. Ninety percent of Kosovo's population is ethnic Albanian, 10 percent ethnic Serbian. Since 1989, the Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic has imposed an apartheid-style repression under which the majority enjoyed few rights. And for the past year, Mr. Milosevic, using Serbian police and Yugoslav troops, has waged a brutal war against the ethnic Albanian population.

NATO finally has decided that Mr. Milosevic's massacres and other war crimes have to stop. The alliance understands that continued civil war threatens stability throughout the Balkans, not to mention NATO's credibility. So the alliance is insisting that ethnic Albanians and Mr. Milosevic's government negotiate a quick agreement on Kosovo autonomy. NATO peacekeepers would enforce the agreement for three years or so, after which final decisions on Kosovo's status, whether independence or something less, would be made.

Even as the Clinton administration gingerly discusses such a force with Congress, it is jockeying with European allies on who will bear the largest burden. Military planners believe that a force of 28,000 might do the job, and the British and French are ready to supply about 8,000 troops each. They would like the Americans to deploy about as many. However, the U.S. military is so far talking about a contribution of 2,000.

That would be pitifully few—counterproductively few, in fact. It is fine to urge the Europeans to do more for European peace, and the French and British have said they will deploy troops regardless of U.S. decisions.

But U.S. leadership is key. Mr. Milosevic will take more seriously a force with meaningful American participation, and Kosovo Albanians are more likely to believe in such a force and lay down their arms. There is more risk in sending too few troops than in sending too many; the United States should show that it intends to succeed in the mission and protect its soldiers. And if an active U.S. army of a half-million men and women can't find 6,000 troops for this job, Congress should ask the generals some serious questions.

All of this is academic if President Bill Clinton and his NATO allies do not insist on a Serbian troop withdrawal. As long as Mr. Milosevic's troops are in Kosovo, NATO troops will not be safe and Kosovars will not be able to rebuild their country, nor will they be able to establish the democratic institutions that NATO is demanding. True Serbian soldiers—that is the key number for a lasting peace.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Choice in Mexico

Mexico's passage to democracy remains uncertain and incomplete. Opposition parties now hold a majority in Congress as well as the country's second-most-powerful electoral post, the mayoralty of Mexico City. But Mexico's presidency, where political power is overwhelmingly concentrated, has been controlled without interruption by the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, for seven decades. That monopoly could well end in next year's elections.

What should definitely end is the traditional system of letting the incumbent president from the PRI choose the party's nominee to succeed him. There is still time to act before the general election campaign begins.

Eight months ago, President Ernesto Zedillo proposed an American-style primary. But he has done little to bring one about. Party officials indicated that a national party convention would be held last year to set nominating rules, but no nominating rules have yet been set. Mexico's two opposition parties, either of which has a realistic chance of

winning the presidential vote, plan to choose their candidates in nominating conventions this fall.

The main contenders for the PRI nomination are Francisco Labastida, now interior minister and a close political ally of Mr. Zedillo, and two state governors, Manuel Bartlett and Roberto Madrazo. Both governors are from the party's old guard and have resisted democratic change in the past. Still, they and others should have the right to a fair and democratic contest for the nomination.

The victorious generals of the Mexican Revolution organized the PRI in the 1920s to keep control over presidential succession. Through hand-picked nominations, unfair campaign rules and occasional electoral fraud, they and their PRI successors proved all too effective.

Recent reforms have made for fairer campaigns and cleaner balloting. The next step should be to introduce fair competition into the PRI's nomination process as well.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Paying Down the Debt

The interest on the U.S. national debt in the last fiscal year was \$243 billion; it made up a seventh of the budget. The president's budget projects that, five years from now, that figure will be down to \$173 billion if the surplus is used to pay down debt in the ratio he has proposed. There would be further reductions thereafter.

The huge interest savings that will result if the debt is reduced are the sleeper in the current budget outlook. They are a principal reason why the surplus is projected to last as long as it is; without them, it would much more quickly disappear.

The surplus provides an opportunity to reduce that. The effect would be to strengthen the ability of the government to meet its future obligations. Among other things, having lowered the debt, it could much more easily borrow again if it had to. In the meantime, the increased savings would in theory add to economic growth.

The president would not use all the surplus for this purpose. Nor perhaps should he; the country has other needs. But on balance, in our judgment, his budget pushes in the right direction.

Mr. Clinton firmed the cuts that must still be made in long-term Social Security and Medicare costs. But the broad alternative, which is to "conserve" in the form of a tax cut what ought to be saved for these and other public purposes, including a sufficient defense, is wrong.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

The Trans-Atlantic Partnership Needs Tending

By Flora Lewis

DAVOS, Switzerland — A large number of Americans came to this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, and they had a wide variety of backgrounds. With some exceptions, they seemed more distant and disengaged from Europe and the rest of the world than a decade ago.

Business may be globalizing and the world web-weaving, a serious information gap is nonetheless growing, particularly on the American side. The old U.S. Eastern foreign policy establishment has gone, and with it much of the sense that what happens in Europe matters to America. The words of common man are repeated, but they often cover a remarkable ignorance of and disinterest toward European affairs.

In part this reflects the sheer passage of time, a dominant generation that does not remember the Great Depression and World War II and its aftermath. In part, it is the shift of attention to Asia, first as the mighty miracle of future wealth and now as the threat of spreading crisis. In part, it is the loss of focus on friend versus foe with the end of the Cold War.

The American media have cut back very sharply on foreign news, studies of newspaper and television coverage make clear. And except for a dramatic war situation like Bosnia or Kosovo,

there is now little reporting on Europe. In a few cases, the result showed in startling misconceptions of current and historic fact.

For example, Steve Forbes, the wealthy publisher and presidential candidate, spoke of Charlemagne uniting Europe a couple of hundred years ago and warned that Europe would be torn apart like Yugoslavia if it did not reform its social system and give people more personal control of their money. This was a combination of sheer error and an ideology conservative to a degree no longer conceivable here, which took Europeans' breath away.

Others, well respected in the United States, seemed to think of foreign policy as no more than trade. Many wondered why the Europeans do not just do things the American way, and felt that there was no further need to know about them.

Americans who are informed and convinced of the abiding importance of the Atlantic link are aware of and deeply concerned about this cultural and political unraveling of ties. "It's pathetic, just pathetic," a senior U.S. official said. But nobody suggested doing anything about it.

There is a growing difference in political assumptions now, with militant conservatives vociferous on the American scene and 11 of the 15 European Union governments led by socialists and social democrats.

There are ultra-right-wing parties in Europe, but they are nationalist, not anti-government. Nobody wants to dismantle the welfare state, however much reform may be required.

In the United States, it is not only the right that widens the gap. That old Eastern establishment has come under attack not only from the Midwest and traditional isolationists but also from the left and the "postmodern" intellectuals who reject a special respect for the European origins of Western civilization.

It is the value feud between "I, Rigoberto Menchu" and Shakespeare.

A professor explained that American universities still teach international relations but that there has been a shift of content. The emphasis is likely to be on women's studies, or on development problems, issues judged to be politically correct. To learn about how Europe is functioning and evolving as it deals with social problems is "neocolonial" in this view, a regression into the past.

Of course, Europe is still there, even if it has been clicked off some Amer-

ican screens, and its gradually integrating countries remain America's most important partners in dealing with a troubled, unruly world.

The extraordinary transformation of Europe in the past half-century leaves world leaders to worry about peace-keeping on other continents. With the painful exception of former Yugoslavia and remnants of violence in Northern Ireland — the more painful now because they are seen as impermissible exceptions — Europe is at peace and intends to remain that way.

It is of necessity the successful Euro-American coalition that has a chance to maintain peace, promote living standards and confront the new global agenda of problems facing everyone but beyond the capacity of most to resolve.

But that coalition cannot just be government-to-government tended. There must be sustenance and support from the various communities of civil society, from the centers of learning, from the sheer interest, curiosity and will of people to know about each other and learn from each other's triumphs and tragedies.

The American-European connection is too important to let it just wither from ignorance and inattention.

Flora Lewis.

Puzzle in India: Share Power Soon or Await Elections?

By James Manor

NEW DELHI — A struggle for political power in India is intensifying. The outcome is likely to determine not just the immediate survival of the Hindu nationalist-led government, but also the long-term fate of the opposition Congress Party.

The coalition government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party is in danger of collapse through a parliamentary vote of no confidence in the next few weeks. Even if it survives in the short run, its ineptitude and the squabbling within the coalition make it unlikely to last for more than a year or so.

The Congress Party, the largest force in opposition, is eager to bring the government down, but it faces a painful dilemma. The strategy that best serves its long-term interests could keep the BJP in power for quite some time.

If the BJP government

probably not give Congress a majority in the new Parliament, but it would be in a much stronger position now.

Such an outcome would reverse a long-running decline of the party that many observers see as irreversible. Internal factionalism and corruption have weakened Congress so severely that this may be its last chance to turn things around.

If Congress tries to lead a present Parliament, it will limp along at the head of a chaotic coalition. It would have to depend on three very different clusters of smaller parties — the Communist left, a set of

regional parties, and a party that represents lower caste groups in two north Indian states. These three clusters are mutually hostile, because of ideological differences and ego clashes among their leaders.

If Congress tried to lead a coalition of these parties, it would soon be embarrassed by very public squabbles among them. It would swiftly earn voters' scorn, as the BJP has done in recent months for similar reasons. Before long, the Congress-led coalition would disintegrate. At the ensuing election, the Congress Party would suffer a popular backlash

like that which currently awaits the BJP. Its chance for revival would have been squandered.

As Mrs. Gandhi rightly sees, the best option for Congress is to seek a fresh election. But that strategy raises a big problem.

Most of the small parties that might soon withdraw support from the BJP and bring it down want to avoid an early poll.

They prefer to join a Congress-led coalition, to retain a grip on power. Their members of Parliament fear that in an early election they might lose their seats. Because they have only held them since early last year, they would not have been in office long enough to qualify for handsome pensions.

Any suggestion from Mrs. Gandhi that she wants an early election makes those parties reluctant to abandon the BJP.

Her best strategy might have been to dissemble — to suggest that she might take power after the BJP falls, even though she intends to go to the polls. But she has lately been sending clear signals that she prefers elections. By doing so, she may have handed the BJP an extension to its political life.

The writer, a fellow of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, in Brighton, England, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

The New Ally for German Business Is Green

By Martin Hufner

MUNICH — Much to their surprise, some German business leaders have found common ground with their erstwhile worst enemy, the Greens, who are criticizing as the voice of economic reason in a center-left government in a number of areas.

This stands in contrast with the mood after the September elections, when the victorious Social Democrats brought the Greens into a government coalition. There was grave concern that, once the Greens grabbed a little power, they would push an anti-capitalist agenda.

In fact, the Greens and their pragmatic leader, Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, are quite firmly conservative, more so in many ways than the Social Democrats and their finance minister, Oskar Lafontaine.

A Green politician has characterized Mr. Lafontaine as someone "who is stuck in a

totally outdated concept of demand-side economics."

The Greens, for example, oppose various large subsidies for industries such as coal mining.

Reform of the generous pension system is another instance of the Greens' fiscal sense.

While the Social Democrats are determined to undo the very limited scaling-back carried out by the previous government, the Greens advocate a firm focus on generational equity. They do not believe that it is wise to add to the financial burden of today's and tomorrow's work force.

For the Greens, "sustainability" is more than an environmental concept, and relates to financial, economic and social policy as well. They believe that if the level of consumption is not sustainable — be it in the form of deficit spending, the over-consumption of state services or

environmental degradation — then policies must change.

The Greens are even sympathetic to the idea that corporate taxes must be revamped to make German business more competitive. Their calculation is simple: Financially weak companies cannot make the necessary investments in technologies to protect the environment. The Greens' persistence forced German business to deal with pollution and other problems before other countries did.

In fact, environmentally sensitive technologies such as oil reclamation are one of the few areas in which German business leaders, in retrospect, have been highly frustrating to business leaders. These tough battles yielded a considerable amount of mutual respect. Even the Greens' more outlandish ideas sometimes make an odd sort of sense.

For example, a while ago, a party leader, worried about the waste of jet fuel, advocated that Germans be allowed to fly to vacation destinations only once every five years. While an example of severe overregulation, the idea makes a point.

From the standpoint of global competitiveness, Germans spend too much time on vacation.

As long as Mr. Fischer manages to steer his party in the right direction, the Greens' anti-establishment thinking provides a refreshing element in German politics.

Contrary to all expectations, the Greens have had such a good start in the new government that it has caused Germany's assume chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, to change his own political strategy. Rather than letting them occupy the center ground in German politics, he is cooperating with them to put an effective check on the Social Democrats' left wing, which has so far resisted reforms.

In working more closely with the Greens, Mr. Schroeder may be readying Germany for the changes it needs.

The writer, chief economist of the Munich-based Bayrische Vereinsbank, contributed this comment to The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO**1899: Kipling's Plea**

NEW YORK — An extraordinary sensation has been created by Mr. Rudyard Kipling's new poem, "The White Man's Burden," just published in a New York magazine. It is regarded as the strongest argument yet published in favor of expansion. It reads as follows:

"Take up the white man's burden/ Send forth the best ye breed/ Go bind your sons to exile/ To serve your captive's need/ To wait in heavy harness/ On fluttered folk and wild/ Your new-caught sullen peoples/ Half devil and half child."

Mr. Kipling warned last year that America could not long remain an island of prosperity, but it has. When he voices concern about stock prices, there is little market reaction, in contrast to 1996.

If there is a bubble, what will happen when it is pricked? The histories of Japan in the 1990s and the United States in the 1930s argue that bursting bubbles do not necessarily burst economies.

But it does not have to be that way, particularly if the bubble is confined to the Internet stocks. Mr. Bernstein compared this boom to 1961, when investors flocked to space technology companies amid expectations that space would bring untold riches.

Those stocks collapsed with the overall market in 1962, but no recession ensued and most stocks recovered.

The New York Times.

proclamation extolling his virtues. The President ordered the U.S. Army and Navy to co-operate in giving a military burial to the man who served as its Commander-in-Chief during the victorious days of 1917-18.

1949: German Rations

FRANKFURT — United States Allied personnel will be barred from German-managed restaurants and cafés in the American Occupation Zone. They still may enter German restaurants operated directly by the Allies with imported food. The move is intended to prevent Allied consumption of rationed German food.

It comes at a time when German restaurants are opening at a rapid rate under the impetus of last June's currency reform — and when many Americans are turning to them as an occasional change. The German-managed places frequently offer goose and duck.

—WILLIAM E. COOLIDGE

President Coolidge issued a

A Bubble Question Unanswered

By Floyd Norris

NEW YORK — Bubble talk is back. From Davos, where Microsoft's Bill Gates was expressing bewilderment as to why people would pay so much for Internet stocks, to Washington, where Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, questioned overall stock prices but said that some Internet companies might be good investments even at current prices, people are talking about investment bubbles that might burst.

"Bubble" is a pejorative term for an investment whose price rises and rises and then collapses. It is widely agreed that just such a thing happened to Japanese stock and real estate prices in the late 1980s, and

Tending

1 screens, and its gradually increasing countries remain America's most important partners in dealing with the world.

The extraordinary transformation of the past half-century leaves leaders to worry about peacekeeping on other continents. With the exception of former Yugoslavia and remnants of violence in Northern Ireland — the more painful because they are seen as impermeable exceptions — Europe is at the bottom of the successful Euro-American coalition that has a mandate and confront the new agenda of problems facing us beyond the capacity of our resolve.

But that coalition cannot just be government-to-government. They must be sustained and supported from the centers of civil society, the sheer interest, curiosity and hope to know about each other's triumphs and tragedies.

The American-European connection is important to let it just wither from distance and inattention. — *Elton Lewis*

it Elections?

Any suggestion from Mr. Gandy that she wants an election makes those parties hasten to abandon the BNP.

Her best strategy might be to dissemble — to stage that she might take power if the BNP falls, even though it intends to go to the polls if she has lately been sending clear signals that she pre-elections. By doing so, she has handed the BNP an extension to its political life.

The writer is a fellow of the Institute of Democracy and the Rule of Law in Brighton, England, and co-chaired this year's international Human Rights

A Split Vote in the Senate Would Signify Strength

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The Clinton-Lewinsky Follies of '98 have burned down to the tolerable level of producing more embers than fire. Poke at the charred logs and they blaze up again. But this moral inferno should be allowed to extinguish itself without more deeply singeing the president, his Republican pursuers or the nation.

The end that now seems most likely is an ambivalent Senate vote that says yes, this president is a prevaricating, lecherous bum, but no, he cannot be removed from office.

That would represent a verdict of partisan mathematics, but one that is also fitting for a time of deep ambivalence about politics, sex and religion.

All politics is personal today. Without the big forces and big ideas of the global battle between communism and capitalism, and with a general consensus in industrial societies on the limits of government's ability to establish social justice, there is little serious political debate about ideas in campaigns or in governance.

Americans are left to select Bill Clinton's one-step-walter-targeted tax cuts from Column A or Senator Trent Lott's across-the-board 10-step fandango from Column B. Tony Blair fine-tunes Margaret Thatcher's economic revolution in Britain.

Russia's mainstream politicians debate the best methods for getting Western financial aid — is blackmail more effective than flattery? — but not the validity of

it and they stash away campaign funds for television time, some siphoned off from international loans.

In these countries and elsewhere, campaign consultants expert in issue preemption and triangulation pound sharp, distinct and therefore controversial ideas into middle-ground mush, and count on winning elections by selling the personalities of their clients via television.

The crucial swing votes in the middle have to be won by pumping up the dangerous flaws and foibles of the opponent.

Up to a point this is a healthy development, just as the split verdict the Senate is poised to deliver is a sign of America's strength as well as of its current temper.

Peace and prosperity expand the middle ground and allow voters to indulge in nonideological politics that can quickly become frivolous. The American electorate, which chose Mr. Clinton's stirring personal narrative over the remote and idiosyncratic personalities of George Bush and Ross Perot in 1992, would never have taken that chance during the Cold War.

But the Senate trial of William Jefferson Clinton shows the obvious pitfalls of this era's media-driven politics of personality. Having lived by the sword of personality, Mr. Clinton now seeks to avoid perishing by it with his appeal for the public to concentrate on issues and America's business, not on his skills of seduction and the consequences.

The Republicans managed to get on the wrong side of sex in this case. The American public has now clearly said through the opinion polls and ballot box that sexual infidelity and dissembling

NOW, THEN, MISS LEWINSKY, WITHOUT USING ANY DIRTY WORDS OR ANY EXPLICIT SEXUAL TERMS OR TALKING ABOUT ANY DISGUSTING PRACTICES OR HORRIBLE ACTIONS OR MENTIONING ANY HIDEOUS CONVERSATIONS OR FILTHY JOKES OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.



Job performance is not the only shield Mr. Clinton uses to ward off the deadly blow of removal. He also wields the lawyer's version of the law: His statements and actions seem carefully calculated to have been technically not perjury, and not obstruction of justice, by the time his lawyers got finished with their arguments.

Mafia bosses and errant schoolchildren alike will for years study and cite this president's mastery of getting away with it, while Republican moralists gnash their teeth in fury.

The Republicans managed to get on the wrong side of sex in this case. The American public has now clearly said through the opinion polls and ballot box that sexual infidelity and dissembling

about it are not capital crimes in politics. This reverses the Gary Hart verdict, on appeal from Mr. Clinton.

Far from showing America as unalterably locked in a Puritan ethos, as many Europeans claim, the Clinton-Lewinsky romance and the dominant reactions to its disclosure and investigation by Kenneth Starr are signs of increasing tolerance in the American public moral code.

That code, shaped by the frontier, has been more rigid, self-righteous and conformist than those of many other developed nations. Religion has remained a more public, and more political, force on U.S. shores.

Like peoples in the Middle East who greet strangers with the word "peace" and upraise palms to show no weapon, Americans have demanded public affirmation from their politicians and each other of the acceptance of restraints on the very human impulses of aggression, greed and lust.

Part of Mr. Clinton's unintended legacy will be to have changed that ethos in ways that are not yet totally clear. A split-level Senate verdict cataloguing Mr. Clinton's failings but not extracting the ultimate penalty should not be cause for despair on either side of the aisle. It will be a sign that Americans are becoming more relaxed, and more realistic, about their politicians and themselves.

The Washington Post

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Right to Be Ms.

Regarding "Miss or Ms.? In Britain, They're Fighting Words" (Features, Jan. 29):

As an American woman living in London, I have frequently encountered the problems and frustrations highlighted in the article. I am married and did not take my husband's last name. I use "Ms." I consider it to be the equivalent of "Mr." — a formal and polite form of addressing a person which

does not convey the needless information as to whether the addressee is married or not.

SHEILA LANMAN
London

international tribunal on Cambodia was simply a case of the United States acting like the "mother-in-law of the world," Mr. Garfinkel misstates that much is once. While the Khmer Rouge mass murder of Cambodians may not qualify as genocide under international law, the Khmer Rouge atrocities against the country's ethnic Cham, Chinese and Vietnamese populations do.

The Khmer Rouge leadership could also be charged with crimes against humanity, of which there

is ample evidence. Moreover, it is wrong to suggest that only the U.S. government supports an international tribunal. Four of the five permanent Security Council members have supported the idea.

The question is not whether there is international and Cambodian support for a tribunal. Rather, it is whether there is sufficient political resolve to fund such a tribunal and arrest those indicted.

JAMES D. ROSS
Amsterdam

BOOKS

HITLER: 1889-1936

By Ian Kershaw. 845 pages. \$35. Norton. Reviewed by Richard Breitman

JN "Mein Kampf," part autobiography, part political tract, Adolf Hitler created a number of myths about his past. For the rest of his life he sought to hide behind his public persona, and he shunned paperwork. His secrecy did not end more than hundred biographers, but it did make things difficult for them.

Ian Kershaw, professor of modern history at the University of Sheffield and an acknowledged authority on Nazi Germany, now offers a much-needed, readable, up-to-date biography. In the first of what will be two volumes, he ably synthesizes what is known of Hitler's early life, political career and takeover of power in Germany. This is no mean accomplishment, since much of the terrain is uncertain and contested.

Kershaw thoroughly discredits the claim that Hitler's paternal grandfather was Jewish and doubts that Hitler ever worried about this possibility. Similarly, Kershaw denies that any early sexual experience or feelings produced Hitler's hatred of Jews.

Truly, history might have been very different if Hitler had not been denied admission to the Viennese Academy of Fine Arts. His difficult years in Vienna, a city colored by a heavy climate of political, social and intellectual anti-Semitism, offered the aspiring painter an initial explanation for his frustrated ambition. Sustained by performances of Wagner's operas and hopes of personal grandeur at the expense of all practical considerations. But Kershaw rejects Hitler's own convenient account that his aspirations and intense anti-Semitism were born in Vienna. He was still afraid there.

After moving to Munich, Hitler en-

listed in the German Army and served courageously in World War I, imbibing the wartime climate of minimized anti-Semitism. The German military gave him his second home and recognition, which made the loss of war all the more shocking and psychologically unacceptable. Hitler clung to the military even during the revolutionary period, when it was briefly under leftist control.

Identifying Jews with Marxists and generally envisioning anti-German conspiracies led by Jews, Hitler again distilled ideas and sentiments common in his environment. Kershaw confirms that Hitler's anti-Semitism preceded, and was more fundamental than, his anti-Marxism. Only later did he identify the Soviet Union as a major enemy and target. But he did see war as essential to human existence and vast expansion as necessary for Germany.

His conservative military superiors in Munich employed Hitler as a political instructor for the troops in 1919 and discovered his speaking talent. Military backers supported his ascent in the National Socialist German Workers' Party. Without assistance from conservative and nationalist Bavarian opponents of the leftist government in Berlin and of the Weimar Republic during the early 1920s, Hitler and his party would never have become prominent.

Kershaw handles adeptly the problems of continuity and discontinuity in Hitler's rise to power. Although drawing upon some existing currents in German political culture, Hitler benefited from many accidents and mistakes by political rivals that it is hard to see his triumph as inevitable or even as a direct outcome of the course of German history.

Hitler's main political strategy after the failure of his 1923 putsch was to build a cult around his own leadership — the Fuehrer myth — and to exploit the weakness of the Weimar Republic. Kershaw believes that others created the myth of

an omnipotent and omniscient leader before Hitler himself turned to it, influenced in part by Mussolini's success.

Once the Nazi Party gained leverage in Parliament in 1930, Hitler simply remained intransigent, unwilling to compromise for anything less than the chancellorship. In the end, his bitterly divided and myopic conservative rivals handed it to him at a time when the Nazi Party was losing popular support.

Kershaw sides with those scholars who see an essential continuity between the fanatical racial anti-Semitism of the early 1920s and the mature politician. Hitler never changed or attenuated his views; he simply used different tactics. Kershaw, however, questions the strength of Hitler's leadership. With irregular work habits, Hitler often deferred difficult decisions and allowed his opponents to make mistakes.

The Fuehrer myth accomplished a great deal for him. His subordinates aspired toward what they believed he wanted.

This model works well until Hitler became chancellor, on Jan. 30, 1933. It is less convincing for the period in which he and his subordinates quickly destroyed the constitution in stages, banned all other political parties and monopolized most positions of influence in German society.

Throughout his life, he wanted all or nothing, a characteristic not likely to produce a passive dictator.

By 1936 Hitler had pulled off a diplomatic revolution in Europe, and Kershaw says, come to believe in his own infallibility. This first volume might have ended just as well on Jan. 30, 1933, when a more decisive Hitler took charge and began to lead Germany and then much of Europe toward perdition.

Richard Breitman, author of "Official Secrets: What the Nazis Planned, What the British and Americans Knew," wrote this for *The Washington Post*.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

A STAR American partnership returned from Europe this week after erasing an unhappy memory.

David Berkowitz of Old Tappan, New Jersey, and Larry Cohen of Boca Raton, Florida, who failed to win the World Pairs Championship in Lille, France, in September after leading into the last round, won the prestigious round-robin tournament. The final was held in The Hague on Sunday by a wide margin.

On the diagrammed deal they brought home a four-spade contract that many pairs did not reach. Cohen as North could not open one no-trump, which would have

been weak in the partnership style, so he began with one diamond.

NORTH
♦ A82
♦ A83
♦ A94
♦ A53

WEST
♦ 64
♦ 53
V 374
♦ 381532
♦ Q8

EAST
♦ 52
V K1095
♦ 10875
♦ 974

SOUTH
♦ KQJ107
V Q3
♦ 1075
♦ 974

The bidding:
North: East: South: West:
1♦: Pass: Pass: Pass:
1♦: Pass: Pass: Pass:
1♦: Pass: Pass: Pass:

overall, he reopened with a double and accepted his partner's invitational jump to three spades.

South won the opening lead in his hand with 10, crossed to the spade suit and made a key play by leading a low heart.

East played low, reluctant to take his king and so give the declarer three heart tricks. On winning the queen, South led to the ace and ruffed a heart.

The club nine was led, and East took two tricks in the suit and led the heart king. South ruffed and reached the position shown at right.

Berkowitz made the elegant play of leading the club four and discarding the diamond four from dummy.

This endplay East and West took two tricks in the suit and led the heart king. South ruffed and reached the position shown at right.

NORTH
♦ 98
V —
♦ AQ4
—

WEST
♦ —
V —
♦ 29853
♦ K
♦ KJ62

EAST
♦ K
V —
♦ 1076
♦ 4

SOUTH
♦ K
V —
♦ 1076
♦ 4

West led the spade four.

Now, then, Miss Lewinsky, without using any dirty words or any explicit sexual terms or talking about any disgusting practices or horrible actions or mentioning any hideous conversations or filthy jokes or anything like that.

REPUBLICAN APPROVED FEMALE TERMINOLOGY

Delaying a Career May Be A Good Choice for Women

By George E. Will

WASHINGTON — This indicates just how out of joint the times are: Human nature is starting news.

Asserting that there is a human nature has become a radical political act, which feminists stigmatize as reactionary. This troubles Danielle Crittentend not at all.

She is a 35-year-old mother of two. Her new book, "What Our Mothers Didn't Tell Us: Why Happiness Eludes the Modern Woman," is written with verve

MEANWHILE

and wit. She says that feminism's androgyny project fails for an intractable reason: It is unnatural.

Today's feminism manifests liberalism's utopian streak, its aspiration to rid life of necessity. Feminism's grand dream is to escape the bonds of anatomy and refute the idea that biology is, in any sense, destiny.

Ms. Crittentend sides with the anthropologist Lionel Tiger, who says that if biology is not destiny, it certainly is "good statistical probability." Ignoring probability brings punishment.

Feminism, having established that women are human, forgot that they are women, with distinctive desires, the ignoring of which causes unhappiness.

Ms. Crittentend, who must be a glutton for punishment, has immersed herself in women's magazines. She notes that they portray 1990s women as "even more miserable and insecure, more thwarted and obsessed with men, than the most depressed, lithium-popping, suburban reader of the 1950s." The magazines' mood swing since the euphoria of the 1970s reflects, Ms. Crittentend concludes, "the inevitable outcome of certain feminist beliefs."

One belief is that women should seek not just equality, and options outside of the family, but full independence from husbands and families. Another belief is that women should strive to lead lives identical to those men live. A third belief, Ms. Crittentend says, is that traditional divisions of labor between men and women make women "unequal" and sentence them to domestic servitude, belying hairdos and loss of the vote.

The serpent in the garden of modern life is sex, improperly un-

derstood. Improper understanding often begins with sex education which ignores the fact that "men and women, by the very nature of their biology, have different, and often opposing, sexual agendas."

Often taught by gym teachers, sex education is stripped of ethical context but crammed with moral messages: "When our health teachers told us to watch our cholesterol, it was because they expected us to eat, and when they warned us to 'use protection,' it was of course because they expected us to have sex." Resultant promiscuity has benefited, and informed, today's "inconstant, immature men," who have less sexual incentive for constancy.

Ms. Crittentend's deeply humane book is a plea for women to be less preoccupied about their "identities." Instead, they should "develop an appreciation for the mutual, if differing, contributions we make to marriage as man and woman," and for the different compromises arising from sexual differences, especially compromises involving careers.

Why, Ms. Crittentend wonders, have so many mothers concluded, in America's richest era, they have "no choice" but to work? Why does taking care of one's young children come to be considered "a perk of the rich, like yachting?"

Women who ignore the wisdom that "we can have it all" — but we cannot have it all at once" comprise a "secret agony society."

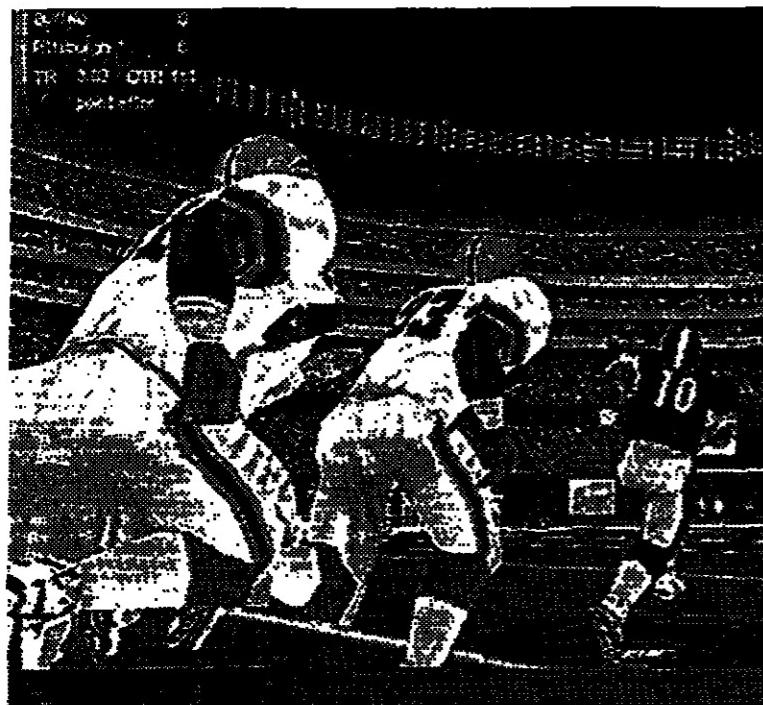
Those trying to "balance briefcase and baby" are failing to convince themselves that "quality time" is a substitute for lots of time.

This is because of an "explosive" fact denied by dogmatic egalitarians: "the most stunning aspect of motherhood — that we love our children more than anything else and want to be with them as much as we possibly can."

A typical woman will live 80 years and work 40 of them, but will have young children for perhaps only eight years. So Ms. Crittentend argues against delaying marriage and children. She recommends a progressive and, today, radical act: marrying early

TribTech

ALT / Commentary



Buffalo Bills defenders chasing a Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback in Sierra's glitchy NFL computer game, which was taken off the market.

Consumers Win a Game

In a Rarity, Software Firm Offers a Refund

By John Burgess
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Ap- plause, please, for the computer-game maker Sierra Inc. — not for creating a great piece of software, but for creating a lousy one and owning up to it.

Last month, citing "errors in the program's code," the company recalled all of the nearly 50,000 copies of the NFL Football Pro '99 game it had shipped.

Stores were told to take the game off the shelves; anyone who had bought one (it had a suggested retail price of \$29.95) was offered a full refund and a free game, or patches and a discount on the next version.

The company's president, David Grenewerzki, all but flagellated himself in public.

"I want to apologize to all our loyal customers for releasing a product before it was ready," he said. "We let the impending end of the football season influence our decision process. We dropped the ball."

When I first saw the announcement, I assumed that the game was a complete bust; you'd try to run it and it would balk, or it would erase everything on your hard drive. But it turns out the problems are more subtle than that. The game runs, but it can do some cocky things, such as mis-calculate statistics for the on-screen teams in certain circumstances, or have a quarterback throw right when he's looking left, or leave holes in the defensive backfield that no real team would allow.

"It's a series of issues that range from polish to performance that collectively make it much more than an annoyance to the customer," said Sean Gleason, the company's director of marketing.

Like his boss, Mr. Gleason went out of his way to be contrite. But, truth be told, we're not talking about your hard drive getting trashed.

What he described sounded a lot like the quirks that many software companies treat as par for the course in a new release. Ignore them, patch them, fix them next time around. But whatever you do, don't concede that the customer has a beef worthy of a refund.

We don't accept that a television set sold to us is only a work in progress, nor a car, nor a pin-striped suit. We expect them all to live up to the promises and to get our money back if they don't. Yet the software industry makes us treat its shortcomings differently.

Maybe Sierra's decision is the first step toward software companies taking the same responsibility for their products that just about every other industry does.

Not likely, actually.

In the software industry, there's an explanation-justification-rationalization that is just too strong to be over-

come by one company's action. It goes like this: Software is too complicated to ship without a major collection of bugs. Bugs are so insidious and skilled at hiding that many only become known over the course of long use by large numbers of people.

Customers should just understand that the companies feel.

So you can imagine how tough a decision this must have been for Sierra. On the one hand, no company wants the embarrassment and cost of a recall; yet it had established a solid reputation in football simulation for years, competing with the John Madden line of games from Fox Sports, and wanted to hang onto that.

The version in question was a ground-up rebuild that the company launched about 18 months ago. Like most software development projects, this one fell behind schedule.

The marketing people had aimed for a release timed to the late-summer start of the football season, Mr. Gleason said. That deadline was not made, and the weeks went by, with the development team rushing to get things ready. The holiday season came and went; still no game on the market.

Software sales, especially for games, are very seasonal. If you miss the time of the year that's relevant to your product, you're in big trouble. So someone in Sierra made the decision to push the game onto the market in the final days of the football season — it reached the store shelves in the last week of December.

The complaints started coming in quickly. Through postings on the company's Web boards, the message was delivered loud and clear that something was seriously wrong, Mr. Gleason said. There were problems no one in the development team had known about. On Jan. 20, the company bit the bullet and issued the recall.

Owners can get a full refund, plus a credit for a purchase of another Sierra game at \$30 or less.

For those who opt to keep the game, Sierra has established what it is calling the Football Pro Home Team. Members get patches to fix deficiencies in the program and a \$20 rebate toward purchase of NFL Football Pro 2000, the next version of the game, which Sierra hopes to get on the market in August — but swear that it won't go out until it is ready.

Full details of the recall are available by calling 1-800-757-7707 in the United States.

So was anyone disciplined at the company about this? "There have been some changes made," said Mr. Gleason, offering nothing more.

Perhaps someone should get into trouble — but someone else should get a medal.

John Burgess's e-mail address is: burgess@washpost.com.

TECHNOLOGY INDEX

Technology stock indexes around the world:

	Tuesday close	Pct. change previous week	Pct. change, year to date
Pacific Exchange Tech	500.85	+11.50	
S&P Tech Composite	1,331.60	+13.99	
Europe			
Morgan Stanley Eurotec	690.82	+13.16	
Asia			
Topix Electric	1,615.00	+4.70	
Source: Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg News			

For technology articles from the past week, see TribTech on the IHT's World Wide Web site at <http://www.ith.com>. Articles include:

- When Hal Met Sally: Talking Systems Spur Automation of Homes, Jan. 28
- Putting People First: Taiwan's Human-Friendly Technology, Jan. 28
- Noda's Profit Advances 72% as Phone Sales Jump, Jan. 28-31
- Sony Units Target U.S. Software, Feb. 2
- Small Investors Are Trading On-Line and Driving Market, Feb. 3
- Apple's iMac Contract Goes to LG Electronics, Feb. 3
- Judge Blocks Internet Sex-Sites Law, Feb. 3

To reach TribTech editors or to comment on IHT tech coverage, send e-mail to tribtech@ith.com.

Pill on a Chip Could Aid Patients and Doctors

By John O'Neil
New York Times Service

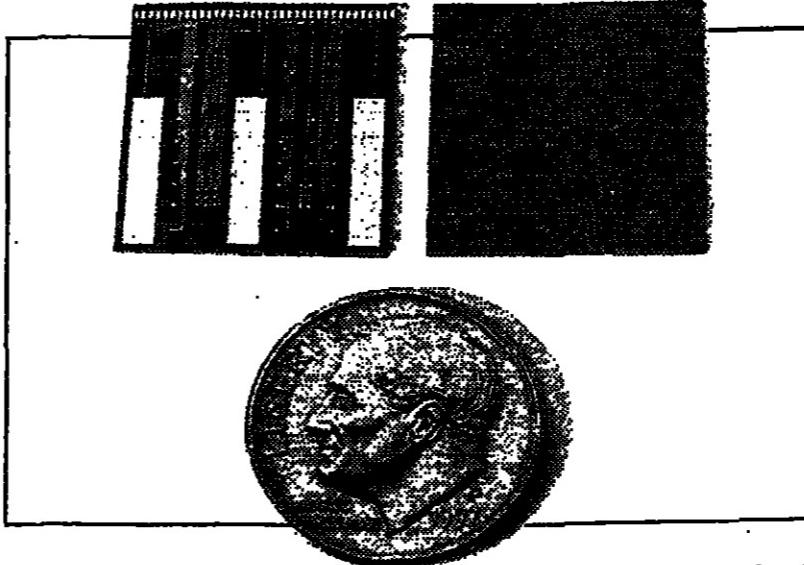
NEW YORK — Pills are simple: Their coatings dissolve, and medicine travels throughout the body. In recent years, some surgeons have begun using a more targeted delivery system, implanting tiny vials of potent medicine directly into tumors, where it seeps out gradually.

Now, engineers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have built a prototype of something far more sophisticated: a kind of micropill, a silicon chip the size of a small coin that could release a combination of drugs on a preprogrammed schedule or by remote control.

Dr. Robert Langer, a chemical and biomedical engineering professor, and Dr. Michael Cimato, a materials sciences professor, previously came up with a way of using ultrasound technology to deliver some medicines through the skin without breaking the surface, a process now in clinical trials.

Working with a chemical engineering graduate student, John Santini Jr., they turned to the question of devising a delivery system that would offer physicians greater control over dosage and timing.

In research described last week in the journal *Nature*, they made use of techniques already developed for the manufacture of computer chips to carve a compartment with a volume of 25 nanoliters — about a quarter of one grain of



On the front of the microchip, at left, are the dots between the larger bars are the caps covering the reservoirs that hold the medication, which is put in and through the larger openings on the back, shown at right.

salt — out of a silicon wafer.

Devices that work on the same principle as ink-jet printers can, with computer guidance, fill those compartments with doses of medicine as low as two nanoliters, Dr. Langer said.

The harder part was figuring out what kind of a cap to put on that compartment

— a lid that could be removed on command using a kind of remote control. They made the covering out of a gold membrane, a mere three-millionths of a meter thick, surrounded by a chloride solution.

That is strong and stable enough to hold in the dose — except in the pres-

ence of an electrical charge. "Apply a little voltage," Dr. Langer said, "and the gold will dissolve into a gold chloride solution; now the cap is off, and the contents can come out."

Dr. Langer said much work remained to be done to go from this "proof of principle" prototype — a model meant to show that the concept could work — to actual use.

In particular, they would like to find biodegradable materials, which would allow a device to be implanted and then left to dissolve after use.

HE ACKNOWLEDGED that a crucial question would be determining when using such a complicated device would be worth the trouble. "Any type of implant wouldn't do for a cold but would for cancer," he said.

Some implants already being used with cancer patients can deliver tiny dosages. "But they don't offer the kind of control for multiple drugs or different release patterns," Dr. Langer said.

And in coming stages of research, they hope to combine the chip with a microbattery and biosensors, to make a device able to react to changes within body tissue.

Looking down the road, Dr. Langer envisions a wider range of uses. "They could be swallowable," he said. "Right now a lot of elderly patients have to take five or six drugs at different times of day. You might be able to take a single pill and put all the different dosages inside."

Patented Ways To Advertise In Cyberspace

By Teresa Riordan
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The basic premise of CyberGold, an electronic commerce company in Berkeley, California, is that the best way to get consumers to read Internet advertisements is to pay them to do so.

It finds advertisers willing to pay people who sign up at its World Wide Web site (www.cybergold.com) and look at the ads. It then compensates consumers who demonstrate in some way that they have read an ad by crediting an account in the consumer's name; amounts range from 50 cents for downloading America Online Inc. software to \$100 for referring a new, paid-up subscriber to the AOL Internet service.

CyberGold recently received its second patent covering this idea. The company's patents also cover two other intriguing approaches to advertising in cyberspace.

The first is a way for consumers to store direct-marketing information about themselves on their computers — like their income bracket, ZIP code,

hobbies and profession — so they can be compensated every time they release such information to advertisers.

"The notion here is that the information about you belongs to you and doesn't belong to anybody else," said Nat Goldhaber, chief executive of CyberGold. "And you can decide when you release it whether you want to be paid for it globally or on an ad hoc basis."

The patents also cover a way of turning conventional advertising-based publishing on its head. In Mr. Goldhaber's patented Internet publishing system, online authors or other creators of on-line content would not be paid a set fee by a publisher. Instead, they would receive a tiny commission from each new reader, who in turn has been paid to read an accompanying advertisement. CyberGold would act as a clearinghouse for these transactions, effectively cutting out the role of a publisher.

"First you get paid to see the ads and then you use that to pay for the content," he said. "You change the flow of money. But you don't change the basic setup, which is that advertising supports publishing."

Mr. Goldhaber said this type of patent, known as a business-method patent, empowers people who want to self-publish or consumers who want to compensated for their time. But he and Gary Fitts, co-founder of CyberGold, are coming into fire for having patented these ways of doing business.

Jamie Love, director of the Consumer Project on Technology in Washington, said he would press Congress to conduct hearings on CyberGold's patents as well as other business-methods patents. Mr. Love said he disagreed with the idea that CyberGold's system was novel enough to be patented, contending that he had written articles on a similar concept back in the 1980s. "And I didn't consider myself the inventor then," he said. "This is typical of the poor quality of review they give at the Patent and Trademark Office for this sort of thing."

Mr. Love described as "dangerous" the legal monopoly that these patents provide, arguing that politicians would likely use such cash incentives to get potential voters to read their material on-line. "Suppose one candidate in a given campaign were the only one to be given a license to the patent," he said. "He would be the only one who could disseminate information this way."

Mr. Goldhaber conceded that politicians would probably use the system, noting that while it is illegal to buy votes, it is not illegal to pay voters to read political tracts. "Instead of offering a drink down at the bar for coming to a rally," he said, "you can offer a buck and let them go down to the bar and buy their own drink."

On-Line Oasis in Haiti's Cyber Desert

Country's Only Internet Café Attracts Wealthy Elite and Foreigners

By Serge F. Kovaleski
Washington Post Service

PETIONVILLE, Haiti — Soft jazz is wafting through the air as several well-heeled people surf the Internet and send e-mail while sipping coffee at computers in a second-floor room tastefully wallpapered in an old-world map motif. At the bar downstairs, where the walls are lined with colorful drawings of the planets, the menu includes cappuccino, espresso, mocha, rum punches and an assortment of American-style snacks.

This trendy, high-tech ambiance evokes images of cybercafés in Seattle, San Francisco or New York. But this one is in Haiti, and it is a striking anomaly in a country where the overwhelming majority of the population of 7 million is impoverished and illiterate and most people have no electricity, telephones or running water.

Haiti's only such cafe, Computer World, opened in June 1997 in the heart of Petionville, a somewhat upscale town that is home to a large portion of Haiti's small moneyed elite a short drive into the highlands from the grinding poverty of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

The cafe has found a solid niche among the nation's wealthy but more so among the relatively large number of foreigners who reside here, most of whom work for nongovernmental organizations or the United Nations mission in Haiti.

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"When I came back, everybody among the Haitian elites was talking Internet, Internet, Internet," he recalled. "And so I am starting to ask them how they are getting on-line."

It is estimated that fewer than 5,000 Haitians have access to the Internet via the country's servers; still, limited efforts to expand computer and Internet use in Haiti have gotten off the ground.

The government is trying to develop an "intranet" that would link all its ministries, and a growing number of courses are available teach people how to use computer systems and on-line services.

On a recent afternoon, Reuben Summerlin, 28, an American who recently moved to Haiti and works for a non-governmental organization, said the cafe had allowed him to gain access to his America Online Inc. account regularly and thus do his job better and stay in touch with relatives more easily.

"I would not be as effective at work or have as much contact with my family if it were not for this place," said Mr. Summerlin, adding that he generally came to the cafe after returning

to Haiti in 1996 from West Palm Beach, Florida, where for two and a half years he was unable to find suitable work in the computer field.

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two days for about 90 minutes. Others had less pressing reasons for frequenting the cafe. "If you are not home and you want to check your e-mail, you can just drop by," said Jean Bouchereau, 18, a high school student who was born in the United States. "I also like it," he added, "because it reminds me of the States. It is the environment; it is kind of cool. It is different than anything else around Port-au-Prince."

BUT THE CAFE is still vulnerable to some of the problems that plague this Caribbean country, the poorest in the Western Hemisphere.

Electricity, for instance, routinely fails, a problem that has forced Mr. Guillaume to buy a generator and an inverter for the cafe so that incoming e-mail does not get lost. Furthermore, some clients have complained that the computer system can slow.

Computer World has 150 members, mostly foreigners, who pay dues

Herald Tribune
BUSINESS/FINANCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1999

PAGE 9

and Doctors

one of an electronic device with a little voltage," Dr. Langer said. "The gold will dissolve in the acidic solution; now that's all we need to know, how the metal components can come out."

Dr. Langer said that it would take about two years to get from the principle prototype to a device to show that the concept could be used.

In particular, they would like biodegradable materials, which would allow a device to be implanted and left to dissolve after a year.

HE ACKNOWLEDGED

termining what kind of complicated device would be useful. "Any type of implant we do for a gold but we'd have to go to a gold wire," he said.

Some implants already help some cancer patients gain better strength. "But they don't offer control for multiple release patterns," Dr. Langer said.

And in coming stages of research, they hope to combine the chip, microbeads and bus, creating a device able to react to changes in the body tissue.

Looking down the road, Dr. Langer envisions a wider range of uses could be swallowed. "We'd like to see a lot of elderly patients have five or six drugs at different times. You might be able to take a single pill for all the different diseases," he said.

Cyber Deser
tory Elite and Foreigners

A Yankee Currency for Argentina?

Many Object, but Bank Chief Plans to Push Idea in Washington

By Anthony Faioia
Washington Post Service

BUENOS AIRES — In the country of Juan Peron, the populist president who once tied the name of the U.S. ambassador to a pig and sent it squealing down the street, the government's recent proposal to consider scrapping the Argentine peso in favor of the U.S. dollar strikes some people here as grounds for revolution — or at least a good laugh.

"Forget it — I don't want to live in the 51st state!" said Mauro Alvarez, 47, a taxi driver with Argentina's blue-and-white flag fixed to his rearview mirror.

"O.K., I have a compromise," joked Antonio Gatti, 21, an office assistant contemplating his multicolored pesos at a local cafe. "We'll use American bills, but only if they put Evita on the \$100 bill."

But the government of President Carlos Menem is quite serious. Like Hong Kong, Argentina already pegs its currency to the dollar to maintain a stable exchange rate and keep at bay the old menace of hyperinflation.

Two weeks ago, however, amid fears that Argentina may become the next target of currency speculators after the plunge last month of the Brazilian real, central bank officials publicly raised the possibility of adopting the dollar as Argentina's official currency.

To push the idea, Pedro Pou, president of the central bank, plans to travel to Washington in the next few months to make a formal presentation. Besides raising such bizarre possibilities as the opening of a U.S. Federal Reserve Bank branch in Buenos Aires, the proposal is sparking heated debate in political and financial circles about whether developing countries can or should protect themselves from global economic turmoil by giving up national currencies.

"The political obstacles are formidable, but it's a highly interesting concept that could take the element of risk out of the Argentine economy," said Matias Silvani, an economist with Citibank in Buenos Aires. "I think the world is moving toward fewer central banks and less currencies, and Argentina could take the lead in this region by dollarizing."

The Argentine proposal also may force Washington to prove its willingness to put its money where its mouth is. Pushed by the United States and international lenders, Argentina and other Latin American nations have made great strides in modernizing their economies along free-market lines.

Now, the government here is eager to secure Washington's help in preventing Brazil's currency crisis from affecting Argentina — including assistance with any potential plan to convert to the dollar. In a recent presentation, Mr. Pou offered three options, including an independent and swift change from pesos to dollars without U.S. involvement and a second that would involve a monetary treaty with the United States.

A third and more ambitious proposal calls for much of Latin America to adopt the dollar in the same way that much of Europe has adopted the euro. That is considered a long shot, however, as Argentina and Chile, for example, already have voiced opposition to the idea. Argentine authorities prefer the idea of a monetary treaty under which the U.S.



Diego Giudice/The Washington Post

Dollars are accepted at this newsstand and many other Argentine locales.

Federal Reserve would agree to provide Argentine banks with backup loans in an emergency.

If Washington refused to go along with such an agreement, Argentina could still declare the dollar as its currency by decree, liquidating its pesos and conducting all official business in dollars. The amount of dollars generated

See PESO, Page 10

Goodyear Creates Top Tiremaker

U.S. Giant Forms Alliance With Sumitomo Rubber

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOYKO — Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and Sumitomo Rubber Industries Ltd. agreed Wednesday to combine their global operations, creating the largest tiremaker in the world, with sales of \$15.5 billion.

Goodyear, the biggest U.S. tiremaker, will be the dominant partner, controlling combined operations in Europe and the United States. Sumitomo will control Japanese operations. The venture stops short of a merger, although the companies will exchange about \$110 million worth of stock, equivalent to 10 percent of Sumitomo shares and 1.4 percent of Goodyear stock.

But in most respects, the companies will operate as one. "If this were two American companies, they'd call it a straightforward acquisition," said one source at the Argentine central bank.

Goodyear and Sumitomo have agreed to place many of their plants and marketing operations into joint ventures, with Goodyear owning the larger shares of most. Goodyear has agreed to pay Sumitomo \$1 billion in cash to make up for the inequity.

By adding more than \$2.5 billion to its revenue, the deal will make Goodyear the largest tiremaker in the world, with a 22 percent market share. Until now, Goodyear, with 17 percent of worldwide sales, was behind Michelin SCA of France and Bridgestone Corp. of Japan.

The alliance will allow Goodyear and Sumitomo to cut costs by eliminating jobs and negotiating better deals for raw materials. Goodyear said it would lay off 2,500 to 2,800 people and take a one-time restructuring charge of \$150 million.

The companies said cost savings would lift their combined operating earnings by \$300 million to \$360 million a year over the next three years.

The deal includes plans to combine purchasing and research operations, but the key is the pooling of plants and distribution centers. In Western Europe, where Goodyear and Sumitomo each have about \$2 billion in sales, the companies will put their 14 plants into a joint venture that will sell Goodyear and Sumitomo tires. Goodyear will own 75 percent of the company. The deal also calls for Goodyear to take over 75 percent of Sumitomo's two U.S. factories, which have about \$800 million in sales.

There will be a mirror-image ownership structure in Japan, where Goodyear has maintained small marketing operations. Those will be folded into Sumitomo's operations, and Sumitomo will own a 75 percent stake.

Suppliers to the auto industry are seeking to extend their worldwide presence as carmakers such as Daimler-Chrysler AG and Ford Motor Co. expand through acquisitions.

"There will be more alliances in the tire industry," said Olivier Pouteau of CTP Finance in Paris. He said the alliance would put pressure on Michelin to seek acquisitions.

Shares of Sumitomo Rubber rose 42 percent to \$73 per share (\$5.11). Goodyear shares were up \$1.375 to close at \$51.75 in New York. Shares in other tiremakers, including Michelin, Pirelli SpA of Italy and Continental AG of Germany — also rose on speculation that further alliances would allow companies to reduce costs and lift their earnings.

The stamp in asset prices in Japan has made some companies there attractive to suitors. Daimler-Chrysler and Renault are buying to a 50-50 stake in Nissan Motor Co. — possibly a controlling one. Ford Motor Co. last year paid \$482 million to increase its stake in Mazda Motor Corp., the fifth-largest automaker in Japan, to 33.4 percent from 24.5 percent.

Michelin said it was interested in Asian acquisitions. "Asia is currently our weak point, and we're still on the lookout for acquisitions in the region," said Etienne Mercier, a company spokesman in Paris.

"Plans for mergers and acquisitions in Japan are gaining steam," said Hiroshi Irie of Nomura Securities Co. (Bloomberg, NYT)

Commodity Prices: Depressed Outlook

Reuters

WAshington — Prices for oil, wheat, cotton, aluminum and other commodities that have fallen sharply since the Asian financial crisis may never recover fully due to advances in technology and free trade that causes supply-demand imbalances, the World Bank said Wednesday.

"Commodity prices may have taken another step down in the long history of declining prices relative to those of manufactured goods," the bank said in its inaugural Global Commodity Markets report.

Over the past two years, prices for many primary commodities have declined more than 50 percent from previous highs, the bank said, with similar declines in each key sector: agriculture, energy and metals.

The bank said the current low prices are the result of the Asian economic crisis and recent production-boosting technology advances.

Lockheed Arms Itself For Battle in Congress

Showdown on \$2.7 Billion Bid for Comsat

By Leslie Wayne
New York Times Service

BETHESDA, Maryland — From his office in a suburban business park, John Sponyoe, president of Lockheed Martin Global Telecommunications, can gaze over to a nearby building that houses his goal: Comsat Corp., the quasi-government satellite company that Lockheed Martin Corp. wants to buy for \$2.7 billion.

Without leaving his desk, Mr. Sponyoe can get a clear view of the big Comsat sign that stares back at him every time he looks up. But for Mr. Sponyoe and for Lockheed, Comsat is so near and yet so far away.

"I've been in the helicopter business before this," Mr. Sponyoe said. "And this deal has got more moving parts than a helicopter. We know we are going to have a fight on our hands. But we think the deal makes good business sense and is doable."

The Comsat deal would put Lockheed, the United States' No. 1 military contractor, into the major leagues of global telecommunications and provide it with much-needed diversification away from the vagaries of the Pentagon budget and policies. But to accomplish the deal, Lockheed needs approval of the Justice Department and the Federal Communications Commission, and even an act of Congress.

Lining up to make life miserable for Lockheed at every step is a formidable array of rival commercial satellite companies, telecommunications giants, consumer groups and unsympathetic members of Congress, all of whom have different reasons for being hostile to Comsat and Lockheed.

This is because Lockheed is walking into a larger telecommunications-industry minefield as it tries to acquire Comsat, the U.S. signatory and 19 percent owner of Intelsat, an international satellite network created decades ago

that Congress now wants to privatize. To acquire Comsat, Lockheed must thread its way through the larger issue of Intelsat deregulation. How Congress settles that issue could either scuttle the Comsat deal or create terms so onerous that no company would want to buy the satellite company.

"Lockheed wants to be a much bigger player in a much faster-growing and more profitable business than their core defense business," said Peter Aserini, an industry analyst with CSFB Securities. "It's a technology they feel they understand. But to buy Comsat, they have to go through all these complicated hurdles. If they can get through all those wickets, they could move to be one of the biggest players in global telecommunications."

That prospect is what is keeping Lockheed activated, especially after suffering a major setback in Washington last year when the government halted the company's \$8.3 billion bid for Northrop Grumman Corp., a smaller military contractor.

Lockheed angered shareholders — some sued the company, and others dumped the stock — after it announced just before Christmas an unexpected drop in fourth-quarter earnings. Lockheed's stock fell 11 percent to around \$40 a share on that announcement, and it remains there. It closed Wednesday at \$39.25, up \$1.39.

If Lockheed wants to secure new growth areas, it's got to look outside of pure defense," said Mr. Sponyoe, who heads the newly created telecommunications division. "We're going forward on the basis that we will close the Comsat deal. This isn't something we did knee-jerk after Northrop. We want this deal to close, and we are throwing all the assets of Lockheed behind it."

To that end, Lockheed's chief executive, Vance Coffman, has joined Mr. Sponyoe and other Lockheed executives in making three lobbying visits to Capitol Hill in the last month.

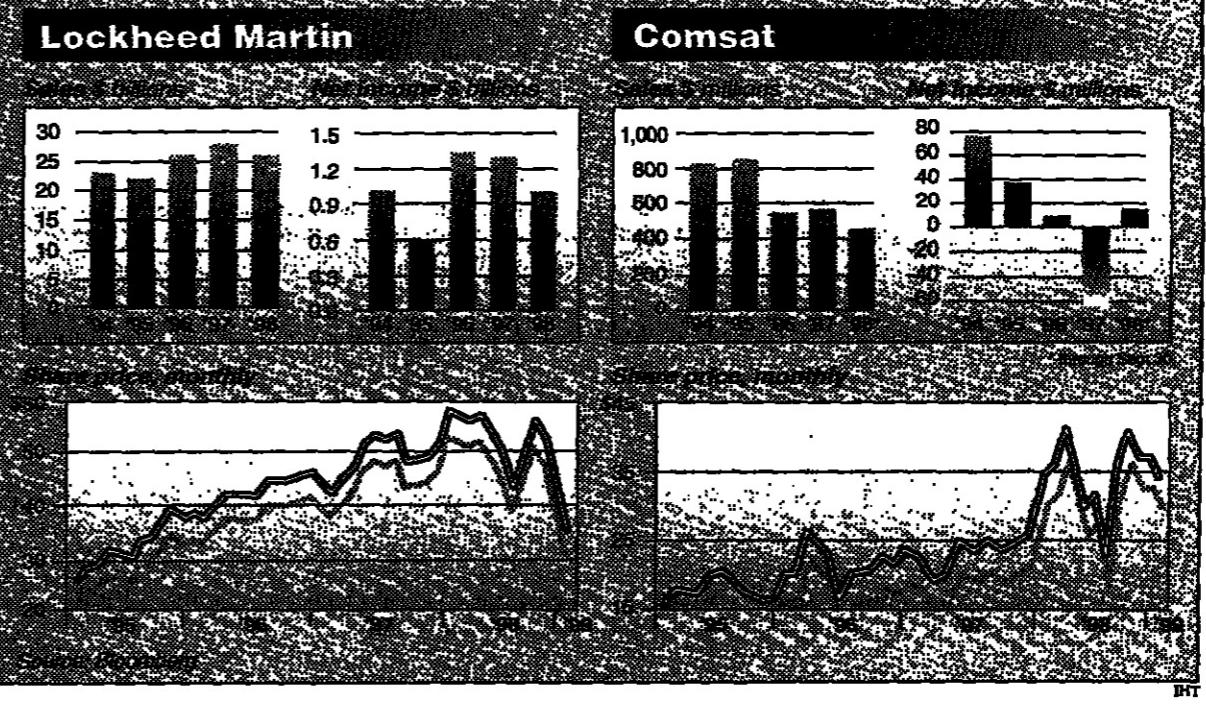
Lockheed also has hired some of the heaviest hitters among Washington lobbyists. The 11 firms that will help the company's in-house team include Podesta Associates, run by the brother of John Podesta, the White House chief of staff; Verner Lipper Bernhard, McPherson & Hand, former Senator



'This deal has got more moving parts than a helicopter,' says John Sponyoe, president of Lockheed Martin's global telecommunications unit.

Top contractors with the U.S. Department of Defense in the year ended Sept. 30 1997. Contract values in billions	
Lockheed Martin	\$11.6
Boeing Company	9.6
Northrop Grumman	3.5
General Dynamics	3.0
Raytheon	2.4
General Motors	2.4
United Technologies	1.8
General Electric	1.7
Litton Industries	1.6
Textron	1.5

Source: U.S. Dept. of Defense



The bill died in the Senate in the last days of the 105th Congress.

Comsat's foes say it has enjoyed a monopoly franchise on U.S. access to Intelsat's 24 commercial satellites for too long, and they want to strip Comsat of many of the privileges it enjoys — most important, immunity from the antitrust laws. Lockheed has expressed willingness to give up these privileges.

See LOCKHEED, Page 15

Microsoft Slips Up in Video Demonstration at Antitrust Trial

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran
Washington Post Service

WAshington — It began as a Perry Mason moment. Pointing to a slight change in the text in a corner of a computer screen, a Justice Department attorney at the Microsoft antitrust trial forced a dramatic admission from a senior company executive on the witness stand on Tuesday: A sophisticated video demonstration created by Microsoft and played in the courtroom contained a major inaccuracy.

"This video you brought in here, and vouches for to the court, and testified how much you checked, that's just wrong, isn't it?" David Boies, the Justice

Department attorney, asked Microsoft's senior vice president, James Allchin.

"Mr. Allchin acknowledged,

Play

Windows 98

Windows 95

Windows NT

Windows 2000

Windows ME

Windows XP

Windows Vista

Windows 7

Windows 8

Windows 10

Windows 11

Windows 12

Windows 13

Windows 14

Windows 15

Windows 16

Windows 17

Windows 18

Windows 19

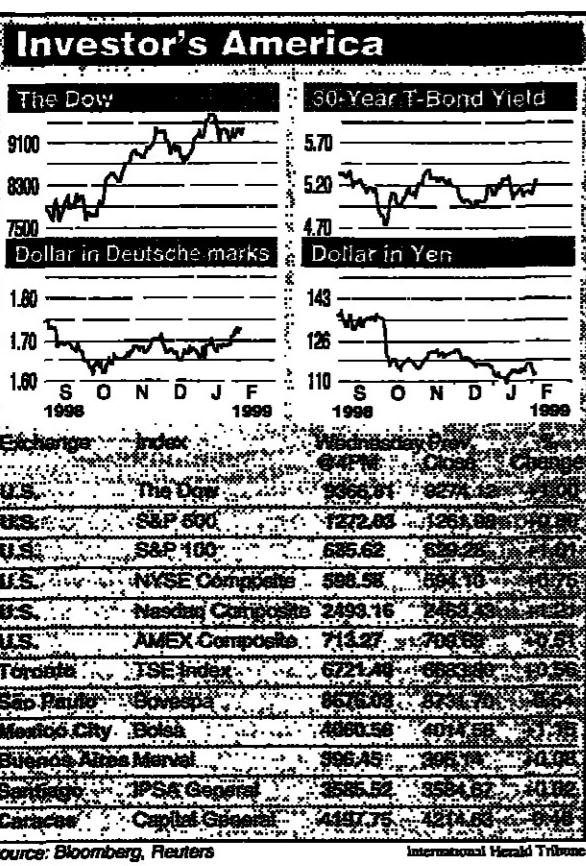
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THE AMERICAS



Stocks Rally After Fed Holds Steady on Rates

Copied by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks rose Wednesday after the Federal Reserve Board left benchmark lending rates unchanged, fueling confidence that profits will benefit as the economy grows with little inflation.

Investors are encouraged by "low inflation, low interest rates and a very friendly economy as evidenced by U.S. corporate earnings," said David Sowerby, a money manager at Loomis, Sayles & Co.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 92.69 points higher at 9,366.81, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index ended 10.10 points

U.S. STOCKS

higher at 1,272.09. The Nasdaq composite closed up 30.16 points at 2,493.58, and gains issues outnumbered losing ones by a 4-to-3 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

The central bank's monetary policy panel — the Federal Open Market Committee — ended a two-day meeting by signaling it had left the benchmark rate on overnight loans between banks at 4.75 percent. It has been at that level, a four-year low, since Nov. 17.

Some investors had been concerned that the Fed might be tilting toward raising interest rates because of the strong economy.

"Our view is that they really have nothing to worry about," said Alan Skrainka, chief market strategist at Edward Jones & Co. of St. Louis. "This is one of the easiest decisions the Fed has had to make."

The most actively traded U.S. stock was 3Com, which fell 64¢ to 373¢ amid concern that the company may be losing corporate sales to Cisco Systems.

E*Trade fell 3 to 534 after the on-line brokerage house suffered a computer malfunction that prevented its approximately 700,000 clients from trading electronically for more than an hour.

"We're embarrassed by it," said Kathy Levinson, the company's chairman, speaking on television. She cited an "applications change" made Tuesday night that had caused the company's Web site to stop processing orders.

The problem also affected E*Trade's voice-trading system and those customers who connect directly to its service. It was not clear whether it extended to clients of the company's overseas affiliates in Canada and Australia, and spokesmen did not return phone calls seeking comment.

E*Trade's competitors rose, including Siebert Financial, which rose 23¢ to 49¢, and National Discount Brokers, which rose 11 to 38.

Other technology issues also remained strong, especially Internet stocks. Amazon.com rose 15¢ to 1,253¢, and Perot Systems, the computer-services company founded by the Texas billionaire Ross Perot, rose 16¢ to 604. The company's initial public offering Monday

was priced at 16.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter rose 2¢ to 91¢ on talk that Chase Manhattan might buy the investment bank. Chase rose 2¢ to 79 1/16.

(Bloomberg, AP)

Renault Plans to Lay Off 1,200 in Argentina

Copied by Our Staff From Dispatches

Buenos Aires — Renault SA, France's second-biggest carmaker, said Wednesday it would lay off 1,200 workers at its Argentine plant as a sputtering economy in neighboring Brazil prompted the company to slash output by more than one-fourth.

The workers' jobs will be suspended for at least four months as the carmaker reduces its plant's shifts from two to one, said Juan Mammel Lardizabal, Renault's director of industrial rela-

tions. Daily production is to drop 27 percent, to 270 units a day.

"We think that in 90 days Brazil will send some improved signals," he said. "And within 180 days Brazil is going to recover some demand — not at the level it was before, but at an acceptable level." An International Monetary Fund official, however, said Brazil's economy would show negative growth this year as a result of the devaluation of its currency.

"There is no doubt that there is going

U.S. Talks of 'Crisis' in Japan Trade

By Alan Friedman
International Herald Tribune

ROME — Trade tensions between the United States and Japan are mounting, and Washington is prepared to impose sanctions on Tokyo unless Japan takes rapid action to open its markets in steel, construction and other sectors, according to two senior U.S. officials.

way, and therefore they won't be affected," Mr. Aaron said. "But they remain unresponsive. When they are doing well they ignore our entreaties, and when they are doing poorly they say they can't do anything."

Mr. Aaron said Washington was urging both the European Union and Japan to open their markets in order to help ease the current financial crisis.

"Right now the United States is the import market of first, last and only resort, and we are looking at a trade deficit of \$20 billion to \$30 billion in 1999," he said. "What we are asking our European and Japanese friends to do is open their markets more to exports from Russia, Asia and Latin America, but I don't think they consider that to be among their responsibility."

Mr. Aaron said that with its economy in recession and purchases of U.S. goods dropping, this was a good time for Tokyo to ease its barriers.

"With their recession under way, they won't be importing a lot any-

more," he said. "So we are pushing for substantially increased trade tension with the United States."

Ms. Barshefsky said that Europe must also play its part to alleviate the world crisis. "We urge Europe to stand with us in maintaining an open market atmosphere and in lowering import barriers particularly on Russian steel and Japanese autos. Europe must play an ever important role in global recovery."

Mr. Aaron singled out the steel and construction sectors as examples of what he called Tokyo's "unresponsive attitude."

"In steel there has been a massive surge of Japanese exports to the United States," he said. "and if the surge doesn't stop soon then we will initiate trade counter-measures."

"Japan has not sufficiently in-

Rubin's Remarks Help Dollar Rise

Copied by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against the yen Wednesday after Robert Rubin, the U.S. Treasury Secretary, urged Japan to strengthen its debt-laden banking system and said the U.S. government supported a strong dollar.

"Rubin made some comments that Japanese banks still have problems, and he also reiterated the strong-dollar policy," said Ben Strauss, a trader at Bank Julius Baer.

Mr. Rubin's remarks gave traders "an excuse" to buy dollars, he said.

In 4 P.M. trading, the dollar rose to 112.975 yen from 112.145 yen Tuesday. It also rose against the euro, which fell to \$1.295 from \$1.337. The pound fell to \$1.6358 from \$1.6388. The dollar climbed to

1,4173 Swiss francs from 1,4133 francs.

"Japan has continuing problems with its banks," Mr. Rubin said after testifying before the Senate Budget Committee. "They have taken steps, but they have a lot to do there."

Japan's government last year set up a 25 trillion yen (\$222.9 billion)

fund to recapitalize the banks. The banks are also discussing cost-cutting plans with Japan's financial regulators in return for the money.

Mr. Rubin also said the U.S. government's policy on the dollar was unchanged and that it supported a strong dollar.

The dollar also was supported by

Metal Spur

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STOCK MARKET

PESO: Dollars for Argentina?

Continued from Page 9

and U.S. officials have offered cautious endorsement.

While warning that nations should not view adoption of the dollar as a substitute for fiscal prudence, the deputy U.S. Treasury secretary,

Lawrence Summers, said last week that Argentina's dollar plan "could serve a very important function" in anchoring their economy.

Scraping the peso poses myriad challenges — not the least of which would be the effect on the national psyche here of surrendering control of monetary policy to a foreign capital. And, as Washington proved in the 1980s during its campaign to isolate General Manuel Antonio Noriega in Panama, which already had adopted the dollar, it is not above closing the pipeline for political reasons.

"We are losing our nation's ability to make decisions," former President Ronald Reagan said in criticizing Mr. Menem's plan. "In all areas, we are putting the country's future in jeopardy."

Warnings that Argentina is selling out to the Yankees pervade the local press. On the front page of Argentina's *Página 12* newspaper — printed with a green tint just for the occasion — a grinning Mr. Menem stands out from where George Washington should be on the \$1 bill. In a banner headline, the paper suggested a possible name for Menem's scheme: "El Plan Monica."

In real terms, the change in daily life in South America's second-largest economy could be minimal. Since 1991, when Argentina pegged the peso to it, the dollar has become this nation's second currency.

Many car loans and home mortgages and more than 56 percent of all bank deposits are in dollars, which are almost as easy to get as pesos at local cash machines. Most businesses eagerly accept dollars in place of their blue, red and yellow local counterparts.

Easy access to the dollar is possible under Argentina's "convertibility plan," which set up a currency board in 1991 that deprived the central bank of most of its monetary flexibility in return for an exchange rate locked at one peso to \$1.

The basic principle is that for every peso in circulation, the Argentine government must back it up with \$1 in the central bank. It makes the currency far more resistant to fluctuations than, say, the Brazilian real, but it also means that Argentina must depend on the Federal Reserve for much of its monetary policy.

Although Mr. Pou has ruled out a rapid switch to the dollar, financial sources close to the government say that position could change if Argentina were subjected to the sort of rapid capital flight that led to Brazil's crisis last month.

If such a shift is successful in Argentina, many analysts say, other developing nations may look to the dollar to protect their economies.

"Of course you're going to find many Argentines are initially opposed to the dollar," Mr. Silvani of Citibank said.

"But when you ask them, 'Would you rather be paid in dollars or pesos?' suddenly they change their minds. We've lived through devaluations and hyperinflation, and nobody wants to go through that again, even if it means getting rid of the peso."

INTEREST RATES

Wednesday, Feb. 3

Government Debt

3-month 4-month 1-year 2-year 5-year 10-year

British 5.25 5.97 2.95 2.98 3.82 4.17

France 2.00 2.22 2.22 2.22 3.21 3.21

Germany 2.50 2.68 3.03 3.03 3.15 3.15

Japan 0.39 0.65 1.25 1.25 2.15 2.15

Spain 4.45 4.65 5.15 5.15 5.54 5.54

United States 3-months 4-months 1-year 2-year 5-year 10-year

Source: Bloomberg

Interest Rates

Wednesday, Feb. 3

GASOLINE

U.S. dollars per metric ton - 6 mbbls

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Nov 9 12.82 12.55 12.49 +0.08 30.07

Dec 9 12.82 12.55 12.49 +0

in Japan Trade

increased domestic growth," she said in an interview with Rome. "Nor has it opened its market and deregulated its economy. It is a dollar in attempting to export its way out of recession. Japan is responsible for substantially increased trade levels with the United States."

Mrs. Barshsky said the Euro would also play its part to alleviate a world crisis. "We urge Europe to stand with us in maintaining open borders, particularly in lower steel and Japanese auto exports must play an even more important role in global recovery."

Mr. Aaron stylized out the soft construction sectors as a "responsible attitude." "In steel there has been a massive surge of Japanese exports to the United States," he said, "and if it doesn't stop soon then we'll take trade countermeasures."

Dollar Rise

The Federal Reserve Board's decision to leave interest rates unchanged after policymakers met Wednesday, bankers said that with recent evidence that the U.S. economy is again growing briskly, there was little likelihood that the Fed would cut rates.

The policy council of the European Central Bank meets Thursday, while some speculation over European interest rates could move lower. This week, central President Wim Duisenberg said the bank was not planning to cut its benchmark lending rate.

The euro has no problem. Helmut Morrissey at Neuenschwander Management in London said, "Growth in Europe is weak but expected."

(Bloomberg, AP, Reuters)

for Argentina?

Many car loans and home mortgages and more than 50 percent of all bank deposits are in dollars, which are almost as easy to get as peso and cash transfers. Most companies rarely accept pesos in place of their blue and yellow local currency.

Access to the dollar is under Argentina's central bank, which has cut interest rates to 10 percent to depress the central bank's control of its monetary policy in return for a fixed rate, fixed at one peso.

A basic principle is that only peso on circulation, Argentina's government took it up with \$1 in the bank. It makes the currency far more susceptible to inflation than, say, the real, but it also means that Argentina must rely on the Federal Reserve for much of its monetary policy.

Although Mr. Pino has ruled out a swap deal with the dollar, sources close to the government say that peso could change if Argentina were subjected to the sort of capital flight that led to a crisis last month, such a shift is successful, many analysts believe developing nations look to the dollar to protect their economies.

"Of course you're going to buy Argentine assets in pesos," said David Cisneros, said, "when you do them, would you rather be paid in pesos?" suddenly change their minds.

A brief through devaluation and hyperinflation, and only wants to go through again, even if it means getting rid of the peso."

RATES

	1-year	2-year	5-year	10-year
Argentina	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%
Brazil	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%
Chile	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%
Colombia	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%
Ecuador	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%
Peru	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%
Venezuela	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%

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NYSE

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

The 2,500 most traded stocks of the day.
Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

12 Month High Low Stock Div Yld PE 100s High LowLast Chg												12 Month High Low Stock Div Yld PE 100s High LowLast Chg												12 Month High Low Stock Div Yld PE 100s High LowLast Chg											
High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Last	Chg	High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Last	Chg	High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	100s	High	Low	Last	Chg			
224 179 AABR	24 12 14	AABR	1.72	26.0	28.0	100	214	204	212	-2	205 214	205 205	AbcCom	0.28	32.0	27.0	100	212	202	204	-2	178 196	196 196	AbcCom	0.28	4.25	1.1	100	196	196	196	-1			
272 25 ABM	25 22 22	ABM	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	212	202	204	-2	270 259	259 259	AbcCom	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	259	259	259	-1	125 125	125 125	AbcCom	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	125	125	125	-1			
254 25 ABM&R	25 22 22	ABM&R	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	212	202	204	-2	254 259	259 259	AbcCom	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	259	259	259	-1	125 125	125 125	AbcCom	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	125	125	125	-1			
244 26 ACE Ltd	26 15 7	ACE Ltd	0.07	26.0	27.0	100	214	204	212	-2	244 259	259 259	AbcCom	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	259	259	259	-1	125 125	125 125	AbcCom	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	125	125	125	-1			
159 76 ACM Op	15 10 8	ACM Op	0.07	10.0	12.0	100	212	202	204	-2	159 76	76 76	ACM Op	0.07	10.0	12.0	100	76	76	76	-1	125 125	125 125	AbcCom	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	125	125	125	-1			
75 76 ACM SC	76 76	ACM SC	0.07	76 76	76 76	100	212	202	204	-2	75 76	76 76	ACM SC	0.07	76 76	76 76	100	76	76	76	-1	125 125	125 125	AbcCom	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	125	125	125	-1			
147 74 ACARAD	147 124	ACARAD	0.12	124 124	124 124	100	212	202	204	-2	147 74	74 74	ACARAD	0.12	124 124	124 124	100	74	74	74	-1	125 125	125 125	AbcCom	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	125	125	125	-1			
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254 179 ACHM	179 179	ACHM	0.17	179 179	179 179	100	212	202	204	-2	254 179	179 179	ACHM	0.17	179 179	179 179	100	179 179	179 179	179 179	-1	125 125	125 125	AbcCom	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	125	125	125	-1			
207 214 ACHM	214 214	ACHM	0.17	214 214	214 214	100	212	202	204	-2	207 214	214 214	ACHM	0.17	214 214	214 214	100	214 214	214 214	214 214	-1	125 125	125 125	AbcCom	0.25	22.0	22.0	100	125	125	125	-1			
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Wednesday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press

The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

NYSE

(Continued)

NASDAQ

AMEX

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close
The 150 most traded stocks of the day,
as of the close of trading, 4 P.M. EST.

up to the closing on Wall Street. The Associated Press.													
Stock	Sales	High	Low	Last	Chg	Chg %	Div	Yld	P/E	100s	High	Low	Lst Chg
ABC	144	11	10	10	-1	-8%							
AEG	145	104	98	100	+2	+2%							
AHLDW	191	250	240	240	+2	+1%							
AKAC	841	179	175	175	-2	-1%							
AKAM	447	68	66	68	+1	+2%							
AKRO	207	5	4	5	+1	+20%							
AKTA	554	145	140	140	-1	-1%							
AKTR	1201	125	120	120	-1	-1%							
AKTIV	1045	25	24	24	-1	-4%							
AKTIV pA	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pB	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pC	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pD	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pE	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pF	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pG	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pH	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pI	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pJ	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pK	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pL	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pM	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pN	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pO	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pP	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pQ	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pR	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pS	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pT	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pU	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pV	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pW	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pX	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pY	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pZ	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAA	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAB	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAC	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAD	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAE	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAF	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAG	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAH	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAI	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAJ	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAK	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAL	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAM	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAN	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAO	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAP	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAQ	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAR	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAS	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAT	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAU	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAV	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAW	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAX	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAY	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAZ	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAA	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAB	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAC	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
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AKTIV pAF	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAG	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAH	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
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AKTIV pAK	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAL	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAM	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAN	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAO	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAP	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAQ	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAR	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAS	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAT	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAU	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAV	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAW	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAX	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAY	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAZ	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAA	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAB	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAC	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
AKTIV pAD	223	2	2	2	-1	-50%							
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Herald Tribune INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

PAGE 16

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1999

WORLD ROUNDUP

Manchester United Is Richest by Far

SOCCER Manchester United is by far the world's richest club, according to a survey published on Wednesday.

The English club generated \$89.7 million (\$143.9 million) in income in 1997, according to a survey by accountants Deloitte and Touche that ranked clubs by turnover.

According to Deloitte's figures, United's revenues are \$49.11 million more than those of the second club, Barcelona. United's revenues were more than double those of the third club — AC Milan — and treble the 15th team — Roma.

Of the top 20 clubs, only Flamengo of Brazil in 11th place was not European. Six were Italian — led by Juventus in fourth, five were English, three Spanish, two German, one French, one Scottish and one Dutch.

In spite of its financial advantage, United has reached the final of the European Champions Cup only once — in 1967. (Reuters)

Hoddle's Team Lives On

SOCCER Howard Wilkinson, technical director of the English Football Association, on Wednesday named the England squad for the match Feb. 10 against France, the world champion. Wilkinson took over as temporary coach when Glenn Hoddle was sacked Tuesday. The squad was picked by Hoddle before his departure. (Reuters)

Hingis Survives Scare

TALENT Martina Hingis, playing her first match since winning the Australian Open, survived a spirited challenge Wednesday from Ai Sugiyama of Japan to win, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, in the second round of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo. (Reuters)

English Body Is Fired

RUGBY UNION The English Rugby Football Union was fined \$80,000 (\$131,000) Wednesday by the International Rugby Board, rugby union's ruling body.

It said the English Rugby Football Union had been punished for "conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Board." It said £30,000 had to be paid now. The rest was suspended on condition that it "conducts itself in an open and honest manner in its relations" with the board and its fellow members. The English were fined £60,000 in December after English clubs played Swansea and Cardiff, who are boycotting the Welsh league. (Reuters)

Sri Lanka Beats England

CRICKET Sri Lanka beat England Wednesday in a tri-nations game in Sydney. England has already qualified to meet Australia in the final. Sri Lanka made 181 to seven in its 44 overs. It then restricted England to 170 for nine. (AFP)

Browns Can Grab Gordon

FOOTBALL Darrien Gordon, who had two interceptions in Denver's Super Bowl victory, was left unprotected by the Broncos for next week's Cleveland Browns expansion draft. (AP)

Maier and Kjus Share A Big Super-G Victory

By Barbara Lloyd
New York Times Service

BEAVER CREEK, Colorado — Herman Maier and Lasse Kjus finished for a gold medal tie in the men's super giant slalom here on the opening day of the World Alpine Skiing Championships.

Both men recorded the same blistering time of 1 minute 14.53 seconds on Tuesday. It was the first time in a world skiing championship that the gold medal was awarded jointly.

"It's wonderful," said Maier, an Austrian. "Now maybe I can go fishing."

Not yet, of course, because he is scheduled to race in the downhill here Saturday. If it bothered the 26-year-old Maier to share the super-G title with Kjus, a Norwegian who is his closest rival this season for skiing's overall World Cup title, he was not letting on.

"It's the same," Maier said. "World champion is world champion. Alone or together."

If two's a tight finish, three's a crowd, but Hans Knauss almost crashed the gold-medal party.

Kjus, 27, a teammate of Maier's, came within one-hundredth of a second of the two gold medalists.

It was barely a wisp of a difference, even for ski racing's split-second finishes. But it was enough to leave Knauss, who skied the 1.2-mile Birds of Prey slope in 1:14.54, with the bronze medal.

The Austrian team showed again that it was going to be almost impossible to topple. Seven of the top 10 competitors in the current World Cup overall standings are Austrian. Even in that company, Maier stands out.

Maier's strength allows him to recover from mishaps that may physically and emotionally scar less adept skiers. At the Winter Olympic Games last February in Nagano, Japan, for instance, Maier was shaken and sore from his harrowing crash in the downhill — which sent him catapulting through two safety nets and piles of snow — but still went on to capture gold medals in both the super-G and the giant slalom.

Cavagnoud Is Hurt in Vail

Regine Cavagnoud of France, fifth in the overall World Cup standings, tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee when she crashed near the start of a practice run Tuesday for the women's downhill. The Associated Press reported from Vail, Colorado.



Lasse Kjus of Norway en route to a super-G victory. He tied for first with Hermann Maier of Austria.

Penguins Rally
Beat Sabres

IOC in Revolt Over Ban on City Visits and Doping Policy

2-Year Sanction Plan Criticized; No Consensus on a Drug Agency

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Two of the key elements of the International Olympic Committee's anti-doping strategy met damaging opposition at the doping summit meeting on Wednesday.

He said FIFA would be allowed to apply suspensions of under two years.

Primo Nebiolo, head of the IAAF, world track and field's governing body, offered a compromise under which federations would be able to cite "exceptional circumstances" in applying bans of less than two years.

Marc Hodler, leader of the seven winter sports federations, backed Nebiolo's proposal.

There was nevertheless strong opposition, particularly from other track and field figures.

Helmut Digel, head of German track and field's governing body, said federations that did not accept two-year ban should be thrown out of the Olympics.

"It can't be that we have a situation three months before the Sydney 2000 Games that an athlete, cyclist and soccer player test positive and can go on to the Games while others cannot," he said. "A credible fight against doping must adopt a principle that the same rights apply to everyone."

Sebastian Coe, twice the Olympic 1,500 meters gold medalist, said the credibility of sport depended on uniform sanctions.

"We have to hold our nerve, we have to hold the line," said Coe, a former British member of Parliament.

In November the IOC agreed that its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, should head a new anti-doping agency.

But this week it has become increasingly clear that leading sports officials and politicians believe that an inde-



Samaranch at the drug meeting.

pendent figure should be in charge of any new agency.

Interior Minister Otto Schily of Germany expressed the European view that the independence of the agency was crucial to its success. Schily was speaking on behalf of the European sports ministers during his country's six-month EU presidency.

"Perhaps we can agree on the principle of an agency but at the end of the meeting you will not have an agency decided in detail," said Prince Alexandre de Merode, the IOC drug chief.

Finger pointing and raw criticism continued to dominate the meeting as much as calls for a unified stance on doping.

European delegates criticized the United States for making proposals for thorough reform, saying it was seeking the high moral ground while it was unable to control the doping issue at home. "They should not take the others for being naive and small people," said Henri Serandour, the French Olympic Committee president. "They should stop giving us lessons. They want to appear whiter than white."

(AP, Reuters)

42 Members Complain Loudly Over Reform of Bidding Process

The Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Rank-and-file International Olympic Committee members mounted a revolt Wednesday against plans to strip them of voting rights in the selection of Olympic host cities.

"If we have some bad apples, they should be thrown out, but don't tell us the whole general assembly is corrupt," said Mario Pescante, an Italian IOC member.

Pescante said 42 IOC members had a breakfast meeting with IOC executive board members Wednesday to discuss the proposed new voting procedures for the 2006 Winter Games.

An "overwhelming majority" of the members came out against the plan. Pescante said: "For the first time in the history of the Olympic movement, the voice of the members is very, very loud."

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC president, said Jan. 24 that the selection system would be overhauled as a result of the bribery scandals surrounding the bidding process for the 2002 Winter Games.

The IOC executive board banned committee members from visiting the six 2006 candidates and proposed that the selection of the host city be made by a 15-member panel rather than the full IOC assembly.

Samaranch said the proposal would be put to a special meeting of the assembly March 17-18.

"It's impossible the general assembly will approve this proposal," Pescante said. "I'm sure the executive board will have to find a new solution before then."

Pescante said he and other members made a counter proposal. A small group of experts should narrow the field to two

or three finalists 24 hours before the vote, he said, and then let the full assembly choose the winner.

Pescante said some IOC members at the breakfast meeting asserted that the proposed system favored the candidacy of Sion, Switzerland, for the 2006 Games. Many IOC members visited Sion during its unsuccessful bid for the 2002 Games, and rival cities view its proximity to IOC headquarters in Switzerland as an unfair advantage.

He said there was no response from the IOC leaders to the outcry from members.

"All the executive board members were silent," he said.

Despite the revolt, Pescante said the members remained in full support of Samaranch, who will put his leadership to a vote of confidence at the March meeting.

"We are confident in the president," Pescante said.

"He is the only man to lead us out of the tunnel. But he must understand that the time of under-the-table decisions is finished."

• In Japan on Wednesday, the Mainichi newspaper reported that evidence had been found proving that bid officials spent millions of dollars on entertainment before Nagano's successful 1998 Winter Games bid.

The report contradicted statements by Nagano officials that all financial records relating to the bid had been destroyed.

In Sydney, Olympic officials said they would hold a special board meeting next Tuesday to vote on whether to release the confidential host city contract for the 2000 Summer Games.

Until now, officials have refused to make the public the contract between the IOC and Sydney. (Reuters, AP)

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Penguins Rally To Beat Sabres

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Jaromir Jagr rallied the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 5-3 victory over the Buffalo Sabres by scoring once and setting up two goals in the final 6:01.

"We gave him too much respect at times, but great players make great plays,"

said the Sabres' coach, Lindy Ruff.

Jagr, Wayne Gretzky, Paul Kariya, Teemu Selanne

— they make those plays."

With Pittsburgh trailing, 3-2, Jagr stood on the bench with seven minutes to play and said, "We're not going to lose this game."

Jagr set up Firdina for the tying goal at 13:59, then fought off two defenders to make a no-look pass onto Kip Miller's stick for the go-ahead goal and a 4-3 lead at 15:11. He scored into an empty net with one second remaining for his 21st goal

after Miller passed up a chance for his first NHL hat trick to give Jagr the puck.

Avalanche 3, Bruins 2 Milan Hejduk and Adam Deadmarsh scored third-period goals to lead Colorado to a franchise record ninth consecutive victory and its first victory in Boston since the 1995-96 season.

Sands Olafsson gave the Avalanche a 1-0 lead when he scored on a power play at 6:14 of the first period. Jason Allison scored two second-period goals for the Bruins.

Maple Leafs 3, Lightning 0

Bryan Berard and Sergei Berezhko scored power-play goals in the second period, and Curtis Joseph stopped 23 shots for his 21st shutout and second this season as Toronto won at Tampa Bay.

Todd Warinner added a third-period goal at 7:35 as the Maple Leafs moved into first place in the Northwest Division.

Flyers 2, Coyotes 2

After Miller passed up a chance for his first NHL hat trick to give Jagr the puck.



Kurt Sander Jagr stick-handling past the Sabres' Michael Peca.

Nikolai Khabibulin stopped 34 shots to earn a tie for the home crowd in Phoenix.

Keith Tkachuk had a goal

SCOREBOARD

ICE HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE		ATLANTIC DIVISION		CENTRAL DIVISION		WESTERN CONFERENCE	
W	L	Pts	Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga
Philadelphia	27	11	65	125	14	19	60
New Jersey	27	11	65	129	12	19	60
M. Keenan	19	23	7	45	12	19	60
N.Y. Islanders	15	30	4	34	16	15	50
Toronto	16	25	3	51	12	15	45
C. Florida	22	17	5	62	14	10	45
Buffalo	24	15	6	55	12	11	45
Boston	23	16	8	48	121	111	45
M. Montreal	18	24	4	44	113	131	45
Tampa Bay	11	34	2	44	58	71	45

NORTHWEST DIVISION		W		L		Pts	
Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga
Toronto	16	25	3	51	12	15	45
Ottawa	22	17	5	62	14	10	45
Buffalo	24	15	6	55	12	11	45
Boston	23	16	8	48	121	111	45
M. Montreal	18	24	4	44	113	131	45
Tampa Bay	11	34	2	44	58	71	45

SOUTHWEST DIVISION		W		L		Pts	
Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga
Dallas	21	10	65	125	12	19	60
Phoenix	22	11	65	127	118	19	60
San Jose	16	20	12	44	109	115	45
Austrian	17	22	4	32	118	112	45
Los Angeles	17	22	4	32	118	115	45

VERMONT DIVISION		W		L		Pts	
Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga
Colorado	19	21	5	52	125	12	19
Edmonton	19	21	5	52	125	12	19
Calgary	16	27	4	59	127	118	45
Vancouver	16	26	6	58	120	142	45

PACIFIC DIVISION		W		L		Pts	
Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga
Dallas	30	11	65	121	95	19	60
Phoenix	25	12	65	127	99	19	60
San Jose	16	20	12	44	109	115	45
Austrian	17	22	4	32	118	112	45
Los Angeles	17	22	4	32	118	115	45

VERMONT DIVISION		W		L		Pts	
Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga
Colorado	19	21	5	52	125	12	19
Edmonton	19	21	5	52	125	12	19
Calgary	16	27	4	59	127	118	45
Vancouver	16	26	6	58	120	142	45

EASTERN CONFERENCE		ATLANTIC DIVISION		CENTRAL DIVISION		WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga	Pts	Gf	Ga
Philadelphia	27	11	65	125	14	19	60

ART BUCHWALD

Impeachment Quiz

NEW YORK — It's time for your impeachment trial quiz.

1. How many senators does it take to screw in a light bulb? (Hint: It takes a simple majority of 51 senators, but it takes 67 to screw someone for a high crime and misdemeanor.)

2. Name five founding fathers of the United States who never tried to find a job for one of their interns at Revlon.

3. Name five founders who never bought gifts on Martha's Vineyard for someone other than their wives.

4. Name at least one U.S. senator (in either party) who never lied to the American people.



special prosecutor, take your Social Security, your car, your dog or your season basketball tickets away from you?

7. The second highest position in the land is that of first lady. In her position, can she pardon the president? Has she pardoned the president? Why would she want to pardon the president?

8. A person from a Southeast Asian nation comes to you and says he and his friends at the Buddhist monastery are organizing a political defense-fund dinner in Teaneck, New Jersey. Do you buy a table?

9. Which of the following things would happen if the president were accused of masterminding the Brink's armored truck robbery?

(a) He would go up in the polls by 20 points.

(b) The stock market would go up by 20 points.

(c) The president would apologize to the American people and offer to raise their Social Security by 20 percent.

(d) Dick Morris would tell the president not to worry because the American people believe Brink's has more money than it knows what to do with.

"My dad got me my first instrument here

In Los Angeles, a Dream Factory for Musicians

By Neil Strauss
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — Perhaps the best place to spot pop, rock and rap superstars, up-and-comers and has-beens in this city is not the bars and clubs, but the music stores. Making it as a musician may require talent, persistence and opportunity, but before that one needs gear.

The Guitar Center, the chain that began here in 1964 as the Vox Guitar Center, ranks among the United States' biggest clearinghouses for ambition.

When musicians sign contracts with music labels, they run to the Guitar Center to spend their advance money. When bands in studios blow out an amp or snap a guitar string, they usually replace it at the Guitar Center. And when an actor or a retired plumber suddenly decides on a career change, the neophyte's first investment is often at the Guitar Center.

The store's customer list over the decades reads like a pop music reference book, including Bo Diddley, Stevie Ray Vaughan, the Ventures, Stevie Wonder, Jeff Beck, New Edition, Melissa Etheridge, Smashing Pumpkins and Alanis Morissette, not to mention less-esteemed aspiring musicians like David Koresh and Charles Manson.

To take the pulse of musical activity in Los Angeles, the dream factory responsible for much of American pop music, one can just spend a day at the Guitar Center.

On a recent Friday there, Guns 'n' Roses picked up \$700 worth of drum equipment. The alternative pop group Fountains of Wayne stopped in looking for a vintage yellow guitar for a video they were filming. Remy Zero and Motorhead called seeking gear for their tour.

The rhythm-and-blues group Sons of Funk, on Master P's No Limit label, checked out drum machines for their new album. The actor Robert Downey Jr. picked up some headphones for his music project.

A formerly successful heavy-metal guitarist who reeked of alcohol at 10 A.M. and asked that his name not be used replaced equipment he had pawned elsewhere. The country star Clint Black called to say he would be stopping by. A Los Angeles Dodger phoned for a price quote on equipment. And Matthew Nelson (son of Ricky Nelson and half of the group Nelson) spent hours shopping. Not bad for what employees called a quiet day.

"My dad got me my first instrument here



Buck Dow, who plays with a band called Buck, checking out the merchandise. Steve Goldstein for New York Times

when I was seven," Nelson said as he stood in the huge guitar section in a cowboy shirt. "I got a four-quarter-sized bass guitar and my brother got a little drum set. They thought it would be just a hobby, but we were back when we were 11 buying real instruments.

And the guy who sold me my guitar then is now general manager of the store."

The man to whom Nelson referred is Dave Weiderman, who is actually the store's director of artist relations, as well as a former touring drummer with Peter Brown and a font of Guitar Center lore. He likes to talk about when the Sultan of Brunei bought a roomful of equipment for a party and had the store's staff come to his hotel to help set it up.

Then there was the time Stevie Wonder met a boy who came to the store daily and played the piano wistfully, hoping one day to buy it for his church.

"You sound good," Wonder said before buying the shocked boy the instrument. And Weiderman recounts the time Bo Diddley brought homemade barbecue for the staff.

"It gives you a sense of pride," Weiderman said. "You're dealing with your heroes, and they're looking to you for advice."

The Guitar Center began humbly as an extension of the Organ Center chain, its spe-

cialty intended to capitalize on Beatlemania. It has expanded along Sunset Strip, filling a former movie theater and a rehearsal hall next door, and it is filled with guitars, including a basement full of rare instruments.

The rest of the nearly 40,000-square-foot (3,600-square-meter) store is filled with almost everything that a musician, studio technician, DJ or roadeo could want: computer programs, stage lights, mixing consoles, turntables, synthesizers, travel cases.

The store's critics complain of relentless expansion nationwide — the chain's 49th store is scheduled to open in Long Island City, New York, this spring — and price markdowns that are driving smaller independent stores out of business. Last year, the publicly held company had revenue of \$391 million.

Weiderman's response is that "whenever we go into a new territory, it increases business for the mom-and-pops." He cited several guitar stores that had opened near the flagship in Los Angeles.

Not everybody who shops at the Guitar Center is famous. Some of the store's most interesting customers are not familiar faces.

As its salespeople say repeatedly, the store motto is "Treat a celebrity like a regular guy and treat a regular guy like a celebrity."

That Friday, for example, a group of fresh-faced teenagers hoping to be as big as the Backstreet Boys bought tens of thousands of dollars worth of studio equipment. Jonathan Shneidman, a computer and interface designer for digital video disks, spent nearly six hours selecting electronic equipment to play live on the Internet. And representatives of a church in South Korea bought a public address system.

The cliché music store experience is to walk in and see dozens of teenagers playing Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" on guitar with no intention of making a purchase. Within a half hour of the store's opening that Friday the song had already been played twice, but a new trend seemed to be emerging. In the guitar section, many customers were experimenting with alternative tunings, employees said.

More strikingly, most teenagers who walked through the door went not to the guitars but to the drum machines and samplers. What guitar riffing was to kids in the '80s, beat-making (programming hip-hop and dance rhythms) is to teenagers today.

Part of the Guitar Center's cachet is its 185 salespeople. Almost all are musicians, usually older men past their glory days or younger ones hoping that their big break will come even faster through contacts made at the Guitar Center. To see a stereotypical image of the technically minded musician's musician, look around the store. At one point in the studio-equipment room, the ratio of employees with ponytails to those without was 4 to 1.

"I put my hair in a ponytail because it looks more professional," explained one. "But if I want to relate to a heavy-metal musician, I can just pop my hair out and let it hang."

Slade came to the store looking for CDs of drum loops that he had ordered. The store didn't have them yet and Slade was crestfallen, explaining that he could not work without them. Moved by Slade's disappointment — or maybe just bored on this relatively slow Friday — an employee, Johnny DeLeon, drove to the supplier's office half an hour away in Century City to pick up the CDs and make the \$64.84 sale. Slade tried to stuff a \$20 tip into DeLeon's pocket, but he declined.

Asked what led him to go so far out of his way for such a small sale, DeLeon just smiled and shrugged, reciting the Guitar Center credo. "Treat a celebrity like a regular guy and treat a regular guy like a celebrity."

New York Opens Play Festival

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Like the literary equivalent of the Australian Open or Wimbledon, a knockout playwriting tournament began here Wednesday night with four plays presented under the auspices of the Turnip Theater Company at the Studio, at 145 West 46th St.

The event is the "New York City 15-Minute Play Festival," comprising 32 original short plays chosen from 250 entries nationwide and competing through Feb. 20.

At each performance, the audience votes for its favorite. Winners from the first two weeks move on to finals week, when they compete for cash prizes and the accolades of audiences and theater professionals.



GREETINGS — The exiled Iranian author Faradch Sarkhi embracing the Nigerian poet Ogaga Ifowod as they met Wednesday at a writers' seminar. "Berlin — City of Escape." Sarkhi now lives in Germany.

THE Public Broadcasting Service must pay nearly \$47 million to the former Monkee Michael Nesmith and his defunct company for defrauding him in a home video deal that sank the firm. A federal jury in Los Angeles decided that PBS went behind Nesmith's back to steal the home video rights to such popular fare as "Sesame Street" and the Ken Burns documentary "The Civil War" while promising to keep his faltering firm afloat. Nesmith's company, Pacific Arts, made a deal in 1990 to distribute the PBS Home Video Line. Nesmith, 56, was the half- and sideburns-wearing member of the Monkees.

Protesters heckled Thailand's forestry chief, Plodprasop Suraswadi, for allowing the shooting of a Leonardo DiCaprio movie on a protected beach. Several activists showed up at the headquarters of the Forestry Department as Plodprasop was making a speech. He told the hecklers they should leave the matter to the courts and stop "treating me like an animal," the Bangkok Post quoted him as saying. Environmentalists are suing Plodprasop, saying the 20th Century Fox production is spoiling Phi Phi Island's fragile ecosystem. The filmmakers have ended shooting and say they are returning the beach to its pre-filming state.

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Siegfried and Roy, who were warned

D.A.R.E., an anti-drug program used in

The Singer Sinead O'Connor Strikes Back

Agence France-Presse

LONDON — The Irish rock singer Sinead O'Connor says she will sue the father of her daughter after his charges that she had neglected the 2-year-old were dismissed. O'Connor said the Irish Journalist John Waters's accusations arose out of "malice and vindictiveness."

"It's the worst thing that you could accuse a person of, other than sexual abuse," she said from her home in north London. She said she would sue him for filing a malicious report and for "the damage to my career and family life."

A social services spokesman confirmed that a social worker had visited the house and that the agency would not be taking the matter any further.

"Now John will have to go through the courts and let the judges work out how and when he can see Roisin. He has just made life much more difficult for himself."

schools across the United States, has sued Rolling Stone magazine for \$50 million, contending it was libeled in an article written by a journalist who admitted making up part of the story. The article by Stephen Glass said D.A.R.E., or Drug Abuse Resistance Education, tried to "silence critics, suppress scientific research and punish nonbelievers." The federal lawsuit alleges that Rolling Stone's managing editor, Robert Love, requested a derogatory article about D.A.R.E. to further efforts by the editor and publisher, Jane Wenner, to "discredit anti-drug organizations." Glass was a writer for the New Republic when he confessed to making up stories for that magazine and others, including Rolling Stone.

He has conquered film, stage and television. Now John Lithgow has decided to chart untested waters with a singing career. The star of "Third Rock From the Sun" is releasing his first album next month, "Singin' in the Bathtub." The collection of swing style tunes will be aimed at children.



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